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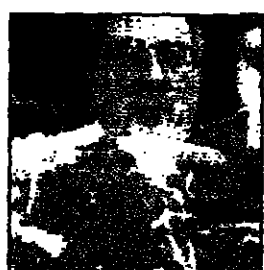
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6 wounded in heavy Lebanon fighting

By DAVID RUDGE

An IDF doctor was seriously wounded yesterday and five other soldiers were hurt — most of them lightly — in the heaviest fighting in south Lebanon for several months.

Three of the wounded, including the wounded doctor, were plucked to safety in a dramatic rescue operation by an IAF helicopter crew.

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine revealed last night that several Hizbullah gunmen were believed to have been killed in the fierce exchanges, which continued intermittently from early morning to late evening.

Levine praised the helicopter crew, which rescued the wounded soldiers in the early morning, despite ongoing fighting in the area, the risk from explosive devices on the ground, bad visibility and difficult terrain.

The first batch of wounded were brought by helicopter to Haifa's Rambam Hospital around 6 a.m. — nearly three hours after the first incident, in which five soldiers were wounded.

The troops, from an elite Nahal unit, were on patrol north of the IDF's Karkum position, in the western sector of the security zone.

See LEBANON, Page 4



US President Bill Clinton accepts an honorary doctorate yesterday from Hebrew University president Meir Meirav in a White House ceremony marking Israel's 50th anniversary.

Clinton tells 'Jerusalem Post'

US has lowered PA pullback hopes

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON — The US's diplomatic efforts have lowered Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's expectations for a further IDF redeployment, US President Bill Clinton told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

At the same time, Clinton said he recognized the PA's recent efforts against terrorism following the murder of Hamas activist Muhi Sharif and implicitly called on Israel to acknowledge those steps, too.

"Chairman Arafat has certain territorial aspirations and he's clearly realized them. And they're clearly willing to go forward," Clinton said to the *Post* during a White House reception yesterday.

"It's been a long time since the Hebron agreement. It's been a long time since anything happened. I think Arafat, the way they handled this last Hamas case, I think should have built up his credibility a little bit. And he also took some risks, so I think it's an important moment. Now we have to just make the most of it," Clinton said.

Clinton was asked to comment on US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's remarks on Sunday night that "we have entered a period of grave danger."

in the peace process and that "we face the possibility that the momentum that had been built in the direction of peace will snap back and begin to run in reverse."

The president said he believes the parties were ready to heed the administration's call to make the pivotal decisions necessary to advance the negotiations.

"We'll see, won't we, in a few days? I hope so," Clinton said, referring to the meetings scheduled for Albright on May 4 with Netanyahu and Arafat.

The reception followed a ceremony on the South Lawn celebrating Israel's 50th anniversary and Hebrew University's awarding the president an honorary doctorate in philosophy.

In his address to Jewish community officials, cabinet members and legislators, Clinton said that now "is a time for reconciliation around the world."

The current opportunity to make peace in the Middle East "has never been more real" and "must not be lost," he said.

Clinton and Vice President Al Gore referred to the legacy of Chaim Weizmann and David Ben-Gurion, with the president asserting that Israel can "fulfill its full promise" by building on "the courage and vision of its founders

to achieve peace with security."

Clinton concluded dramatically, saying that he does not know how God would reconcile Israeli and Palestinian territorial claims, but that everyone involved must heed "God's will" and bring peace to the region.

"Fifty years from now, the 21st century will near its midpoint, and Israel will have a 100th birthday celebration," he said. "Sure as the world, our children will be hanging around here on this lawn. What do you think they'll be able to say, and what will they be celebrating?"

"It is my dream that on that 100th anniversary, people from every country in the Middle East will gather in the Holy Land, and all the land will be holy to all of them. As a Christian, I do not know how God, if He were to come to Earth, would divide the land over which there is dispute now."

"I suspect that neither does anyone in this audience. But I know that if we all pray for the wisdom to do God's will, chances are we will find a way to close the gap in the next couple of years between what might be and what is. I think that is what we owe the founders of Israel: to finish Ben-Gurion's dream."

See CLINTON, Page 4

Netanyahu, in holiday interview

We'll be supporting the Diaspora by 2048

By HERB KEINON

A wealthy country sending money to Diaspora Jewish communities — including those in the US — to help them survive, is how Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sees Israel come its centennial in 2048.

Another part of the prime minister's vision is centennial celebrations taking place in Hebron and remote settlements in Samaria like Yitzhar and Bracha.

Netanyahu, in a jubilee interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, talked about the country's distant

— as well as immediate — future.

Netanyahu said that one of the sticking points holding up progress in the Oslo process is the future of the settlements, and what he said is his government's intention to keep them all.

"I am not delineating a map for you, but our insistence has been on keeping all the settlements," Netanyahu said. "That is, in fact, why we are undergoing this difficulty [in the negotiations]. I don't want to jeopardize the security of any one of them."

As for reversing the 100-year-old trend, whereby money flows pri-

marily from the Diaspora to Zion, Netanyahu said, "I'm not sure that we shouldn't send money directly, or talk to the Jewish Agency and talk about programs [in the Diaspora], joint programs, funded partly by them and partly by us, by the budget of the Jewish state."

"Believe it, Israel is going to start helping the Diaspora, because that is a central task; to save the Jewish people from the abyss of assimilation. This is one of the fundamental tasks facing the State of Israel as it enters the 21st century."

The full interview will appear in tomorrow's *Post*.

Olmert accuses Gillon of vandalism

By ELLI WOHLGELER

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert charged yesterday that former head of the General Security Service, Carmi Gillon, and the head of Channel 2, Nahman Shai, paid people to paint graffiti on his car and on City Hall.

Olmert said the graffiti was part of the continuing fight over the plan to annex Mevasseret Zion to Jerusalem, and that he expected an apology from Gillon and Shai.

"I expect some people like Nahman Shai and Carmi Gillon, the former head of the secret service, and some members of Knesset who participated in this demonstration [Sunday], to officially apologize to the mayor of Jerusalem that messengers sent by them were using violence against me and against municipal property in the city of Jerusalem," Olmert said.

See OLMERT, Page 2

Foreign traders blast gov't for currency reform backtrack

By DAN GERSTENFELD and Jerusalem Post Staff

Foreign investors expressed disappointment yesterday over leaked reports that the government has shelved its plan to lift restrictions on futures transactions in the shekel as part of the currency liberalization plan.

The plan is scheduled to be officially unveiled today by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel.

Official sources said on Sunday that the plan to lift most of the remaining restrictions on currency exchanges would be limited to Israelis, while leaving intact cur-

rent restrictions on foreigners' participation in local currency trading.

Central bank cuts interest rates 0.3%, Page 13

See CURRENCY, Page 4

Jobless rate hits 8.3%

By DAVID HARRIS

Seasonally adjusted unemployment totaled 8.3 percent of the workforce at the end of February, its highest level since the end of 1993, according to initial data published yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

The latest rise in the jobless rate, which as of this year is being measured monthly rather than quarterly, brings the number of people out of work to more than 180,000. The 8.3% rate is the highest since the low of 6.0% in the second quarter of 1996, though still far from the high of just over 11% in 1992.

As the figures were being issued, Treasury Director-General Ben-Zion Zilberfarb said Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman will

soon introduce the government a job-generating program which will include:

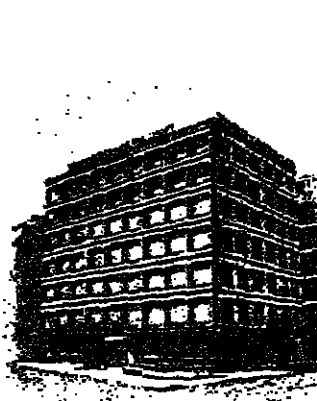
- Imposing hefty fines on employers who take on illegal foreign workers. Neeman this week estimated the number of foreign workers without valid permits is now over 160,000. The fines will be distributed administratively, and if employers appeal to the courts and lose their cases they will be liable for even higher payments.
- Increasing state and private spending on infrastructure. The Treasury yesterday denied a report that ministers will be asked to find an overall NIS 1 billion from their own budgets, which will be put into infrastructure projects.

See JOBLESS, Page 4

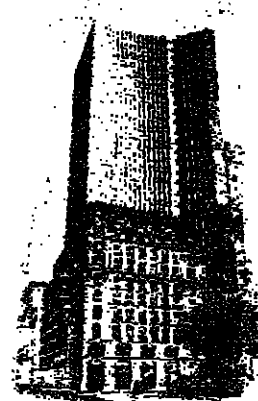
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NEWS

in brief

Palestinians barred from Israel

The IDF announced last night that Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza would be barred from entering the country during the Independence Day weekend, from this morning through May 2.

Some exceptions have been made for a few hundred medical personnel, lawyers and humanitarian cases. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Rabin-Weizman reconciliation expected

The ongoing feud between Leah Rabin, wife of late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, and President Ezer Weizman is expected to be resolved on Thursday at the Independence Day celebration at Beit Hanassi. Rabin has reportedly accepted an invitation to attend the festivities.

The bad blood between the families came to the fore following Rabin's funeral, at which Weizman said in his eulogy that they had eaten and had some drinks together. The Rabins thought the remarks were flippant and inappropriate.

During the recent presidential election, Leah Rabin came out in support of Weizman's rival, MK Shaul Amur (Likud). Sources said last night that it was hoped that the festive forum would serve as an occasion for reconciliation between the two.

Batsheva Tsur

PA religious affairs minister dies at 75

Palestinian Authority Religious Affairs Minister Hassan Tahboub died yesterday at age 75 in Amman. He will be buried this afternoon in Jerusalem's Al Akse cemetery.

Tahboub was admitted to an Amman hospital for treatment last month and early yesterday suffered a stroke. He leaves a wife, five sons and three daughters.

Tahboub was appointed PA minister in 1994. He had been director of the Waqf Islamic Trust, a body he joined when the Jordanians controlled the West Bank. *Steve Rodan*

Prime Minister gets new military aide

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has appointed Col. Dr. Shimon Shapira as his new military aide. Shapira is to be promoted to brigadier-general. Shapira has been acting military aide to the prime minister since Maj.-Gen. Ze'ev Livne was appointed military attaché in Washington over a year ago.

Arieh O'Sullivan

Weizman criticizes pace of talks

By BATSHEVA TSUR and news agencies

President Ezer Weizman yesterday threw his weight behind efforts to push forward the peace process in anticipation of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's visit to Cairo and London.

His efforts began in the morning when Weizman met Netanyahu over breakfast and made no bones about his dissatisfaction with the government's failure to take action in the current stalemate.

According to a source, Weizman did not hide from the premier that he was "upset" over the lack of progress in negotiations.

Shortly afterwards, US envoy Dennis Ross arrived at Beit Hanassi for a long chat, during which he reportedly told Weizman about the Palestinians' feelings of frustration.

In the afternoon, Weizman held a lengthy meeting with the Palestinian Authority's No. 2 leader, Mahmoud Abbas, at Beit

Hanassi. The meeting was sanctioned by PA Chairman Yasser Arafat and apparently also had Netanyahu's blessing. The Palestinians reportedly told Weizman they could not accept a withdrawal of less than 13 percent.

Weizman and Netanyahu met again last night to discuss the day's developments.

Beit Hanassi officials confirmed that the meetings took place but refused further comment.

In an excerpt from an interview with Israel Television to be aired on Independence Day, Weizman made some veiled criticism of Netanyahu's peace moves.

"One goes in the right direction but not always along the right path," he said. "If you go in the right direction, you eventually reach your destination. If you take the wrong route, the question is how many accidents there will be along the way - and the way we are going now, there will be a few accidents."

PM to discuss peace process in Egypt

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's summit in Egypt today with President Hosni Mubarak is expected to focus on the status of the peace process, especially winning Palestinian agreement on the Gaza Strip airport and industrial zone.

This one-on-one session, which was arranged at the Egyptian leader's initiative, will enable Netanyahu to solicit his host's support "in convincing the Palestinians that there is very good reason for them to settle these two issues" and not to link them to the depth of the IDF's next pullback in the West Bank, an official source said.

The May 4 proximity talks in London between Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority chairman Arafat are believed to have been the catalyst for Mubarak's invitation.

In a deviation from his usual procedure, the prime minister will not be accompanied by any Israeli correspondents. His official television crew presumably will go along to record the event, however.

Netanyahu expressed his position on the pending West Bank withdrawal at a meeting with the Foreign Press Association.

He denied that it is "dictated by ideological concerns," but said that it was based on Israel's security needs.

The proposed withdrawal map "was built from the ground up," he said, referring to input from IDF and General Security Service experts.

"Giving up six per cent" of the area in question "is no problem," Netanyahu said. "But when we cross seven or eight per cent it becomes very difficult. And when we reach nine per cent there are difficult problems."

Netanyahu said that to go beyond nine per cent would make it "very difficult" to protect that 40,000 Israeli children who travel the West Bank's roads every day. He cited a GSS explanation of the "acute difficulties we would encounter" if the nine per cent limit is exceeded.

"We are accountable for the safety of Israeli citizens," he added. "That is not a matter that can be decided upon in Washington or London."

Netanyahu said he was thoroughly familiar with the topography and the terrain, "having walked through it twice."

His comments implied that there has been no modification in his official position since the start of the latest round of

talks with US Peace Envoy Dennis Ross and Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk.

"Their last meeting was relatively short, an hour and a half," an aide to Netanyahu said. He could not cite any specific or tangible outcome that might point to a change in the status quo.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa was quoted by Agence France-Presse in Cairo as saying that Mubarak and Netanyahu will discuss "the deadlock reached in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations."

"The situation of the peace process's Palestinian track is grave," Moussa reportedly said. "It will be the first subject on the agenda of the Mubarak-Netanyahu talks."

Israel's proposal to withdraw from southern Lebanon "under certain circumstances" also will be discussed, AFP said.

Moussa was quoted as saying that Lebanon fears being drawn into "endless negotiations" with Israel and that the Arab states will not back a maneuver designed to split the "Syrian-Lebanese coalition."

Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon also described the evacuation of more than nine per cent of the West Bank area under IDF control as "dangerous."

Speaking during a Negev tour, Sharon said "it is essential to extricate ourselves from the percentage marketplace. We must go on with quiet negotiations without rhetoric. That is what any normal state does."

"Only here have the citizens of Israel been transformed into advisers to those who want to reduce the scope of our security," he added. "This is a subject of importance for the next 20 if not for the next 200 years and not a matter of momentary convenience or coalition considerations."

Sharon warned that attempts to accelerate the process could lead to concessions which will entail the loss of water sources or sites meant for the installation of early warning devices.

In a further development, a report that Netanyahu tried to bypass the State Department by sending two letters to President Bill Clinton by way of the Central Intelligence Agency was flatly denied by Netanyahu's office.

"We routinely communicate through various agencies, including the CIA, but in this case there was only one letter sent to the CIA and no letter was returned to us after being rerouted through the State Department," an official said.

Mofaz seen likely to replace Shahak

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

With speculation running high on who will be chosen as the next IDF chief of general staff, both leading candidates are set to meet separately today with the man who will decide their fate, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

Mordechai is expected to consolidate his decision over Independence Day and bring it before Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and the cabinet early next month, two months before the current Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin Shahak resigns.

The two top candidates are Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilnai and Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, the deputy chief of general staff. Vilnai participated in his first general staff meeting yesterday since returning from Washington, where he has been on a study leave.

With generals rolling and flashing, both Vilnai and Mofaz made a point to shake hands. Before celebrating the 50th birthday of the state with the general staff, Mordechai met privately yesterday with Netanyahu, but defense officials insisted the topic of the next chief of staff did not come up.

Still, the picture emerging is one of greater ramifications. Mordechai is backing Mofaz, 50, while Vilnai, 54, reportedly expects Netanyahu to support him. The prime minister has reportedly hinted that he would prefer to give in to his defense minister rather than support a life-long friend.

Nevertheless, even if Mordechai opts to brave a wave of public criticism by choosing Mofaz, the appointment still must be approved by the cabinet.

Still, Mordechai is unlikely to propose a candidate unless he knows his decision will be supported by his fellow ministers.

Mordechai's spokesman flatly denied reports that generals were angry over the delay in the decision to appoint a new chief of general staff.

"Contrary to the report, there is no delay in the decision to appoint the next chief of general staff," said Mordechai's spokesman Avi Benayahu. "The defense minister said a few months ago he would give his decision to the government for approval after Independence Day, and this is how it will be."

Speculation is running high in the IDF, particularly in the general staff, over the next round of promotions. Most major generals are set to be promoted, but the speculation over the next chief of general staff. One called it "artificial" and another said it was simply degrading for Mofaz.

"It is not clear who these anonymous military sources are who are criticizing the minister of defense and who are quoted in the report, if they even exist. It would be best if they identified themselves," Benayahu said.

Senior defense officials insist that Mordechai hasn't yet made up his mind, but is holding his cards very close to his chest.



Lebanon fighting intensifies

Smoke rises after the IDF shelled the area near Ziblikin village yesterday in the heaviest fighting in south Lebanon for several months. Six soldiers were injured yesterday and two Lebanese women were reported to have been wounded by the shelling. (Reuters)

PA hopes EU will push US to prod Israel

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Palestinian officials expressed hopes yesterday that the European Union would help prod Washington to put pressure on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to agree to a larger West Bank withdrawal than what Israel has proposed.

In their meetings with US envoy Dennis Ross this week, Palestinian officials have repeated their refusal to accept less than the 13 percent pullback called for by the American plan.

The officials also once again urged the US to officially release its proposals.

"We want the US administration to present their ideas officially and publicly, whereupon we will have an official and public reply," said PA negotiator Saeb Erekat, who together with Mohammed Abbas met Ross.

"Wasting time is wasting peace. Time is of the essence, and there shouldn't be any delay in

presenting proposals by giving excuses about meetings held here or there. The picture is clear, and there is no reason for more negotiations."

Erekat said that two days before Monday's London summit, US Vice President Al Gore will meet PA chief Yasser Arafat.

Later, European Union envoy Miguel Moratinos promised Erekat he would recommend that EU leaders urge Washington to increase pressure on Israel.

Moratinos also met with Arafat in Gaza.

PA officials said that so far Ross has not been able to budge Netanyahu from his offer of handing over 9% of the West Bank to full Palestinian rule.

"So far, the US effort has failed," PA Planning Minister Nabil Shaath said.

Arafat's aides warned that Israeli refusal to accept the US proposals will have dire consequences for the region.

"The current situation is a new turning point, which is more serious than previous ones," Arafat aide Nabil Amr said.

"There is only one week until the meeting in London. That's one reason to say that it's impossible to live side by side without the objective circumstances of the Oslo Accords."

"We as Palestinians did what we have to do toward facilitating the Europeans and Americans," he said. "Here the Israelis are the troublemakers, and they are paralyzed from taking a decision to rescue the peace process."

Amr expressed doubts about whether Washington would punish Israel for refusing to accept the US bridging proposals.

"We know there is a large group in Congress who are trying to pressure the US not to make any effort that might embarrass Israel," he said. "In addition, the relations between Israel and the US are the sort that will not allow a confrontation between them."

Arafat calls Oslo a temporary truce

By STEVE RODAN

The government intends to lodge a protest with the Palestinian Authority over an interview PA Chairman Yasser Arafat gave earlier this month in which he compared the Oslo Accords to a temporary truce and said he envied Palestinian suicide martyrs and hopes to become one of them.

Officials referred to Arafat's interview to the Egyptian Orbit satellite television channel on April 18 in which the PA chief compared the Oslo Accords to the broken truce Mohammed signed with the Koreish tribe some 1,300 years ago.

The accords, the officials pointed out, contain an exchange of letters in which Arafat pledged to renounce terrorism and other violence.

"Everyone must know that all

options are open before the Palestinian people and not just the Palestinian people but before the entire Arab nation," Arafat said in the interview.

Arafat explained his orders to stop terrorist attacks against Israel, saying that Mohammed agreed to a 10-year truce with the Koreish tribe. The agreement was opposed by one of Mohammed's chief aides, Omar Bin Khaib, who called it the "inferior peace agreement."

"I do not compare myself to the prophet, but I do say that we must learn from his steps and those of Salah a-Din," Arafat said. "The peace agreement which we signed is an 'inferior peace.'"

Arafat said he suggests "we maintain quiet. We respect agreements the way that the prophet Mohammed and Salah a-Din respected the agreements which they signed."

Gillon said he was surprised by Olmert's comments.

"I don't believe it," he said last night. "He's the mayor of Jerusalem. I know him very well, he's a very responsible man, and I can't understand how he can say such things. It's a complete lie."

He added that he does not head a non-profit organization and condemned the incident as a "hooliganistic action." Shai said he had spoken out against the graffiti.

Clinton digs tunes of Israeli band

By HILIEL KUTTNER

WASHINGTON — Later, President Bill Clinton would address peace and reconciliation. Early yesterday morning, Israeli music was more on his mind.

Fully attired in his business suit and out on the South Lawn playing "fetch" with his dog Buddy at 8:30 a.m., Clinton paused for a while and listened as the Israeli band ESTA warmed up 30 meters away. The group's US manager, David Azoulay, was unloading equipment from a truck, and Clinton gave him a thumbs up.

The all-male quartet was established 10 years ago after playing together in the Israeli Air Force band. It is in the US for a series of concerts.

Its biggest gig, though, was warming up the audience prior to the White House ceremony at which the Hebrew University awarded Clinton an honorary doctorate.

In his speech, the music-loving Clinton praised the group for its peppy tunes, saying that the executive branch would be more productive if the musicians would stick around another three months.

After descending from the podium, he stopped and told them how much he likes their music. Clinton orchestrated pictures with each of the four, then a group shot. Azoulay gave the president

ESTA's compact disc, which the members all signed.

The White House's social office scouted for Israeli musicians to play at its celebration of Israel's 50th anniversary and informed ESTA three weeks ago of its selection. It said it thought ESTA's appearance was the first time an Israeli band played at the White House, and that very few foreign bands play there.

In its event program, the White House described ESTA as crossing "genres, styles and borders" in mixing rock, jazz and World Music.

While Clinton did not stay to jam with the quartet, bassist Benzi Gafni said Clinton's attention left him with "an amazing feeling."

"You'd have to talk to me in three or four days because there are no words," Gafni said.

With deep sorrow we announce the death of

EDDY LERMAN ז"ל

The funeral will take place today, Tuesday, April 28, 1998, at 2 p.m. in Nahariya.

Shiva at Moshav Ya'ara, house 203.

The Family

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on the death of her dear father

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Labor unsure who will challenge Milo

By SARAH HONIG

Labor announced yesterday that it would choose its candidate to challenge Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo via primaries but party chairman Ehud Barak was nevertheless busy trying to hand-pick a candidate.

Labor's search for a candidate came after a surprising string of developments Sunday afternoon, which culminated in a late-night decision to quit the partnership with Milo, who is formally a Likud member, and instead field a candidate against him.

Barak conferred yesterday with MK Shlomo Ben-Ami, the man he believes stands the best chances against Milo.

Barak quoted Ben-Ami as saying he would think it over, but Ben-Ami said he turned down Barak's entreaties, saying his interests lay in national politics, not in municipal affairs.

A further handicap is that Ben-Ami is a Kfar Sava resident, who has never lived in Tel Aviv. To qualify as a candidate he must establish a legal address in Tel Aviv by May 10.

Barak homed in on Ben-Ami following a series of polls Labor

commissioned several months back from five different polling organizations. All were asked to pit a large array of Labor names against Milo and all came back with similar results: No one was found even close to beating Milo. Ben-Ami's chances, however, were rated the best.

The head of Labor's municipal campaign headquarters, MK Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, also reportedly approached former Jerusalem police chief Arye Amit, asking him to head the Labor ticket.

Amit, who was given second slot in the short-lived joint list with Milo, declined Ben-Eliezer's offer. He had on Sunday told Milo and Barak that he is quitting the city race altogether for personal reasons. He reiterated this yesterday, saying his brief taste of politics had given him "a very bad case of nausea."

Soon after Amit's decision to quit Milo's list, known as Lev, Milo announced that he was putting former Tel Aviv police chief Gabi Last on his ticket.

There reportedly was much bad blood between the two police commanders. Last is now studying at Harvard.

Milo's decision outraged Barak and led to the disintegration of the partnership.

Amit reported yesterday that Milo had told him privately, after the meeting the two held with Barak, that he would "do best to stay on the list."

Milo said that there is still a chance he would opt for national politics. He might even make the decision before the elections and not run at all. In that case, he let me know, that I would inherit the Lev list and City Hall if I stayed on as his No. 2, Amit said.

He added that this is "in total contradiction to the promise Milo made the public that he would not leave mayoral office to run in the national arena and that he would complete his term of office in the city."

Milo hotly denied this and noted that "if I run for mayor I will stay on as mayor for the full five years."



From ashes to redemption

A group of Canadian participants in the March of the Living arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday from Poland. Some 6,000 youths from 40 countries, who were in Poland for Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, will participate in ceremonies for Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars and Independence Day celebrations this week. (Israel Hadari)

Bezeq gives lone soldiers free phone cards

By ARISH O'SULLIVAN

Thousands of Israeli soldiers whose families live abroad are being issued telephone cards that enable them to speak to their relatives anywhere in the world for free for 10 minutes a month.

A million shekel donation was made by Bezeq International and endorsed by the IDF and Defense Ministry as a gesture to the soldiers in honor of Israel's 50th anniversary. There are some 2,500 IDF troops who have no relatives in the state and are classified as lone soldiers. Most of them are immigrants, but some are the children of Israelis living abroad.

"It's good," said L-Rtg. Zanaabu Fantalye, an Ethiopian-born woman serving in the Navy. "I'll now be able to call all the time."

Li-Col. Ron Stern, head of the IDF Welfare Branch, said Bezeq International was allowed to donate the telephone cards over the other international telephone carriers simply because it initiated the idea.

"We decided to let [Bezeq International] do it," Stern said, adding that the telephone cards would be distributed to the lone soldiers by the welfare officers in their units.

Until now, the IDF had given lone soldiers a three-minute telephone call every three months. Many lone soldiers speak to their parents more than that, but it is expensive, particularly for those whose only income is a few hundred shekels from a conscripts wage.

"Every time I came home on leave I would call my folks," said Timothy Kislov, 20, a fighter in the Givati Brigade. "It's expensive, but I have to call because they are elderly. Letters take a long time to get there, if they arrive at all."

"This free phone call will be a lot more comfortable because I will be able to save my money for other things I need," said Kislov, whose parents live in Moscow.

According to Bezeq International, some 60 percent of the telephone calls made by lone soldiers today are to the CIS, 5% are to the United States, 4% to France and the rest to over 35 other countries across the globe.

"Calling costs a lot of money, but it's better than any letter," said St-Sgt. Felix Sheinin, 22, a member of the Engineering Corps. "I'm not so sure that my folks understand what a combat soldier is, but they understand that I am healthy when I call. They hear my voice and know I'm OK."

"You are worthy of praise because your families are not here, can't share your experiences and your parents can't help you physically and spiritually in this difficult service," said Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who met with a delegation of lone soldiers yesterday.

Gathering them in his office in Tel Aviv, he told the soldiers that he had adopted two lone soldiers, who are living at his home. One is being released in the near future and Mordechai is looking for another lone soldier to take his place.

Director-General of Bezeq International Ori Yosev said the donation totaled 300,000 minutes worth of telephone calls a year. He said that at the annual gathering of lone soldiers to be held in May at Latrun, Bezeq International would

set up telephone lines for soldiers to call their families abroad free of charge.

SOME THINGS KEEP CHANGING FOR THE BETTER...

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HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

From Shoah to Tkuma

In a week of memorial days and the state's 50th anniversary, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's participation in the March of the Living in Poland was especially significant, writes Ma'ariv's Yosef Lapid.

His participation "embraces what is positive in life, in the face of death...Auschwitz and Birkenau were the Holocaust. The State of Israel is the answer," he writes.

Yirmiyahu Yovel, in *Yedioth Aharonot*, says that it is obvious that everyone must remember the genocide of the Jewish people, but the Jewish force of life is also significant.

"The remembrance of the Holocaust needs balance, by remembering the life that preceded it," he writes, adding that the Holocaust has wrongly taught the Jews here and abroad to view themselves forever as victims.

Dan Margalit in *Ha'aretz* criticizes the latest trend in historical writing for undermining the distinctiveness of the Jewish genocide. He states that the difference between Jews and other nations that were victimized lies in the fact that the Jews had no refuge and the one conclusion above all others is the obligation of the Jews to develop an independent power of their own.

Margalit adds that the challenge of future generations is to "focus the understanding of the Holocaust on the Jewish category."

In an article by Rami Sa'ar in *Ha'aretz*, Dr. Avner Ben-Amos of Tel Aviv University is quoted as saying that the meaning that our

nation has chosen to attach to its history lies in loss and revival.

"Our identity is molded around bereavement, loss, grief, sacrifice...we live on the tension between disaster and Holocaust, redemption and salvation."

Attack on NRP

Shas leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef's attack against national-religious schools and the marked lack of response by national-religious leaders were both criticized by Hebrew press commentators.

Yedioth's Uri Orbach states that it is admirable that the NRP was not dragged into a mutual smear campaign, but it nonetheless should have defended itself.

"The feeling of excessive tribalism is the reason that the NRP remains quiet," he says, adding that the guiding state of mind is that "it is inappropriate to criticize rabbis, so let's lower our profile because we are all brothers."

Ha'aretz's Moshe Ishon does respond and defends the NRP, but avoids referring to Yosef by name, choosing to address him as "one of Shas's leaders, standing at the top of the spiritual pyramid of the movement."

He is bewildered by the attack and attributes it to the strengthening of the NRP.

"If the attacker of the NRP thought that this way he will be able to strengthen his own party, he has made a big mistake," Ishon writes.

He warns that Shas loyalists may not accept what has been said and might alienate themselves from the party.

World community joins jubilee party

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

When Israeli embassy officials in Vietnam announced a drawing contest for local youngsters, in which they were asked to submit drawings about Israel's 50th anniversary, they never expected they would be flooded with some 12,000 entries.

That response is another example of what Ya'akov Levy, foreign ministry deputy director-general for public relations, yesterday called the way "the jubilee events abroad have captured the imagination of individuals and peoples from Washington to Bombay."

At a press conference at the Foreign Ministry outlining the many events around the world connected to the jubilee celebrations, Levy said that all 123 countries with which Israel has relations either already have held celebrations marking the event or plan to do so in the coming months. This includes Egypt and Jordan, where the Israeli embassies will hold special receptions to mark the jubilee, and Tunis, where Israeli klezmer

music will be heard to mark the holiday.

A host of special events are taking place throughout the world to mark Israel's 50th anniversary. In June, Washington's Union Station will become "Israel Station," and the railroad terminal is to be festooned with seven-and-a-half-meter-high Israeli flags as part of a major exhibit which is also designed to encourage tourism to Israel.

Some 70,000 people attended an event on the Boston Commons on Sunday, Levy said, and a major celebration is upcoming in Paris.

"There is no continent that has not marked this event in a major way, and no country with whom we have diplomatic relations which did not find a way to express its support for [Israel], its people and its rebirth in these months surrounding Independence Day," Levy said. "The story of the rebirth of the Jewish people in its land is seen as a significant historic event that transcends any political disagreements we may have."

Celebration of the jubilee year began at Hanukkah, and will continue

through Rosh Hashana. British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze were among those lighting Hanukkah candles to mark the beginning of the jubilee events.

Other countries where major events already have taken place were China and India, where "Israel Weeks" celebrations resulted in front-page articles about Israel.

While there have been some attempts by groups hostile to Israel to counter these events, Levy said that these minimal efforts are far and away overwhelmed by the warmth with which the jubilee celebrations have been received.

Dozens of Israeli cultural delegations also are touring the world as part of ongoing presentations tied to the jubilee celebration.

In addition, many parliaments around the world have issued or are expected to issue statements of support for Israel tied to the jubilee year, which Foreign Ministry officials called an important act of political identification.



Tuning up

The IDF Orchestra rehearses yesterday on Mt. Herzl for tomorrow night's Independence Day opening ceremony.

(Flash 90)

Remembrance Day ceremonies start tonight

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars will begin at 8:00 tonight when a siren goes off. The minute of silence will be followed immediately by the state memorial ceremony at the Western Wall, attended by bereaved families, President Ezer Weizman and Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

Tel Aviv's main memorial event, at 9:30 tonight in Kikar Rabin, will be held on Remembrance Day eve for the first time.

Hosted by Yair Lapid, the evening will consist of memorial songs and recitals by leading performing artists including Yehudit Ravitz, Rita, Yossi Banai, Gidi Gov, Meital

Trabelsky, Yoav Yitzhak, Eli Luzon, and Barry Saharof. It will be attended by Mayor Ronni Milo and Shahak.

Tel Aviv's municipal memorial service will take place at the Opera House at 8 p.m. tonight.

Yad Lebanim will hold a state memorial service at Yad Lebanim House in Jerusalem at 5 tonight. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, the mayors of Moscow and Prague and many other dignitaries are to attend the service.

Bereaved families, the president, prime minister and Knesset speaker will take part in a state memorial service for victims of terrorism

at Mount Herzl in Jerusalem at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

At 11 a.m., a two-minute siren will sound throughout the country to mark the opening of memorial services for fallen soldiers at military and civilian cemeteries and memorial sites.

Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush (United Torah Judaism) will represent the government at the ceremony at Holon's military cemetery, despite protests by bereaved families and the Am Hofshi association.

They argued that it was inappropriate for a member of a haredi party to represent the government.

The torch-lighting ceremony ending Memorial Day tomorrow night will also launch the Independence Day celebrations. The prime minister

will read a part of the Declaration of Independence at the event.

The Defense Ministry announced it plans to present bereaved families with a copy of the book *Israel, Today, Yesterday and the Day Before Yesterday* by Professor Amir Gonen.

They will also receive a medal marking the state's 50th anniversary. For Weizman, Independence Day begins with a reception for outstanding officers and soldiers at 9:00 a.m. At 5 p.m., Weizman will open his residence again, this time to the diplomatic corps.

The World Bible Quiz will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Jerusalem Theater. The Israel Prize awards ceremony will take place at the theater at 7 p.m.

Israelis are like sabras – its no myth

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The myth of the sabra – prickly exterior hiding a soft heart – is a fact and not just a myth, according to research by sociologist Dr. Oz Almog.

"Granted, the sabra's image underwent idealization and stereotyping. Nonetheless, this study shows that during the Yishuv (pre-state Jewish community) and early days of the state a new generation arose with its own unique Israeli point of view, folklore and style, creating a typical sabra figure," writes Almog, who yesterday received the Yad Itzhak Ben-Zvi Award, named after Mordechai Ish-Shalom.

Almog's findings, published in his book *The Sabra – A Portrait*, dispute the assumption that the

sabra is no more than a mythological figure or a grain of truth manipulatively blown out of proportion by the establishment.

Most of the mythological qualities in the sabra stereotype correspond to the basic qualities forming the sabra's generation profile and appear in the components of the sabra culture, says Almog.

"The sabra who read the battle stories and literature about the fallen," writes Almog, "learned to observe himself through the mythological looking glass and responded to the hidden call of the myth."

Almog notes that when prime minister Yitzhak Rabin was murdered, everyone looked for comfort to the myth of the idealist sabra, which Rabin personified. "Rabin was unique in his way and contribution to the Israeli nation,

but above being special, he was a product par-excellence of his generation, the sabra's generation, qualities and weaknesses alike," Almog concludes.

While the sabra took great pains to be a "new Jew" and cut himself off from Jewish tradition, Almog establishes this moving away was only apparent. The sabra was indeed "new," but his being and essence remained Jewish, says Almog.

As cases in point, he cites the youth movement groups which resembled haredi yeshivas; the solidarity and mutual concern cultivated by the sabra community; the public sing-alongs and dancing, the Jewish myths nurturing the sabra's world and the tribal endogamy dividing between him and the Arab "goy."

Police urge extra caution on roads in North over holiday weekend

By DAVID RUDGE

Police are urging motorists to take extra care on roads in the North – especially over Independence Day – following a marked rise in the number of fatal accidents in the region.

The call came as a father and his two young sons, aged 12 and five, were seriously injured yesterday when their truck swerved off the road between Kfar Tavor and Kibbutz Gazit and hit a tree.

All three were treated at the scene by Magen David Adom paramedics and taken to Afula's Emek Hospital. Later, the father and eldest son were transferred to

Rambam Hospital in Haifa because of the seriousness of their injuries.

Police said a car which stopped at the scene because of the accident was hit from the rear by a second vehicle and two more people were injured, both of them lightly.

Chief Superintendent Boaz Goldberg, spokesman for the northern region, said 68 people have been killed in 55 fatal accidents since the beginning of the year.

"This is already more than for the same period last year and we have Independence Day, Lag Ba'Omer and the summer holiday in front of us," said Goldberg. "Last year there were a total of 194 people killed in 162 fatal acci-

dents in the northern region, compared to 183 killed in 159 fatal accidents in 1996."

He noted that most of the roads in the North have a single lane in each direction and that several of the fatal accidents had occurred because drivers had tried to overtake when there was traffic coming in the opposite direction.

"We are urging motorists to drive carefully, wisely and with patience and, of course, within the law," said Goldberg.

He added that hundreds of police would be on duty over Independence Day when roads in the North are expected to be clogged with traffic.

IDF's launches jubilee 'charm offensive'

By HELEN KAYE

The IDF, in collaboration with the Jubilee Association, has launched what amounts to a country-wide charm offensive which is targeted at all sectors of the population, especially youth.

Its planned events on Independence Day and thereafter will "highlight the human being in

the military," said the deputy head of IDF personnel, Brigadier-General On Regonis.

The IDF "was, is and will continue to be a unifying force in our country, because people are our greatest asset," he added.

Highlights of the Independence Day activities include parachute drops in eight development towns. Planes will create a "50" in the sky

visible in most of the country. The IDF has also provided footage for Thursday's main celebration, Jubilee Bells, at the Givat Ram Stadium.

The Jubilee Association has contributed some NIS 7.5 million to the IDF's jubilee calendar activities.

Meanwhile, a group of peace organizations has cancelled its

planned Independence Day picnic, saying that it could not accept Jubilee Association conditions for its funding. The association, which was to provide half of the funding for the event, had stipulated that there be no criticism of the government by speakers. An appeal to the Supreme Court by the peace groups to set aside the condition was rejected on Sunday.

Likud candidate poised for Kiryat Shmona win

By DAVID RUDGE

Likud candidate Haim Barbevali seems set to continue the right-wing's traditional hold on the mayoralty of Kiryat Shmona following municipal elections there yesterday.

Some pundits, however, said it was not clear whether he would clear the hurdle in the first ballot or a second round would have to be held.

The polls closed at 10 p.m., but final results are not expected to be announced until this morning. Opinion polls in recent days have put independent Leah Ehrlich, on sabbatical from her post as head of the town's Tel Hai elementary school, in second place. Geshet's candidate, former Labor Party member Herzl Ben-Asher, was ranked

third by the polls.

By 6 p.m. only a third of the nearly 14,200 eligible voters had cast their ballots in the elections for mayor and the 15-seat town council.

Labor, which for years has made only a token showing in the Kiryat Shmona elections, did not field a candidate for mayor. Instead the party gave its backing to Barbevali, while running a separate list for the council.

Barbevali told reporters yesterday that the threat of Katyusha rocket attacks was less of a problem than the fact that many young people were leaving the town due to the dearth of employment prospects.

According to the local political analysts, the interesting contest is between Shas, the NRP and Geshet, for seats on the council.

A good showing for Geshet would serve the party in good stead for the future. Last week, it staged a mass rally in Kiryat Shmona headed by MK David Levy and his brother MK Maxim Levy.

Shas, however, upstaged all the contenders by bringing Sephardic sage Rabbi Yitzhak Kadouri to a rally in the town on Sunday night which was attended by over 1,000 people. Rabbi Kadouri was flown in by helicopter and gave blessings to the crowd and to Shas's candidates for the council seats, as well as Barbevali. His candidacy for mayor is supported by Shas as well as the NRP.

According to political analysts, Shas is hoping to improve its position and win more seats than the NRP, which has traditionally been the strongest religious party on the town council.

LEBANON

Continued from Page 1

"The troops were operating in the Jabal Batzil region when they entered an area with explosive devices," said Levine, in a briefing last night with reporters.

Five soldiers were wounded, including the force's doctor, Lt. Tal Ami-Bar, of Mevasseret Zion, when one of the devices detonated.

He was seriously wounded and two other members of the unit suffered moderate-to-light injuries. Two others were lightly hurt.

Around the same time, Hizbullah gunmen started firing mortars from north of the zone at the troops on the ground and at nearby IDF and SLA positions, apparently to cover the retreat of the bomb operators.

Heavy fog at the time, around 3 a.m., the difficult terrain, and the knowledge there were other explosive devices in the area, made a ground-mounted rescue operation difficult. But Ami-Bar's condition called for an evacuation as soon as possible and a helicopter was sent.

The pilot and crew lowered a stretcher by which from the helicopter's cabin and raised the three most badly hurt soldiers one by one. The helicopter did not touch the ground throughout the operation for fear of setting off other bombs.

The two lightly hurt soldiers remained in the field after first aid treatment, while the Hizbullah mortar bombardments continued.

Later, in the early afternoon, another officer, Lt. Meir Mishlon, of Givat Ze'ev, also from the Nahal unit, was lightly hurt from mortar fire in the same area as the earlier incident.

He was evacuated by helicopter, along with the two wounded earlier, to Rambam.

Deputy hospital director Dr. Zvi Ben-Isai said the wounded doctor had undergone surgery for head injuries and remained in serious condition in the neurosurgical ward's intensive care unit.

Of the two brought to the hospital in the morning, one was suffering from chest injuries and the other from wounds to his arm, both as a result of shrapnel. Ben-Isai said those two, and the three others admitted later, were all in satisfactory condition.

The fighting spread throughout the region yesterday. Four South Lebanese Army soldiers were wounded when an explosive device was detonated alongside the armored vehicle in which they were travelling in the Jezzine enclave, north of the security zone.

Hizbullah gunmen fired mortars and Katyusha rockets at IDF and SLA positions in the western, central and eastern sectors, throughout the day.

Reports from Lebanon said that Hizbullah had fired more than 150 rounds during the course of the exchanges, while IDF gunners pounded suspected Hizbullah targets with more than 350 shells in the western sector alone.

Two Lebanese women were reported to have been wounded by shelling near Zibikin village, north of the security zone.

According to the reports, IAF helicopter gunships fired rockets at a vehicle, believed to be carrying Hizbullah gunmen, north of the zone, in the central sector, and destroyed it. Helicopter gunships were also reported to have been in action in the western sector.

"We estimate that Hizbullah had at least two killed and four to six wounded and maybe more," Levine said last night.

He stressed that the region had not been quiet recently and large scale mortar fire at IDF and SLA positions and troops in the field had been continuing for many weeks.

"When there aren't any casualties it perhaps doesn't get into the headlines as much. We are succeeding in hitting some of the mortars and some of the crews, while adhering closely to the Grapes of Wrath understandings," said Levine.

"Hizbullah, for its part, is breaching the understandings and firing from within the villages, the outskirts of them and even close to UNIFIL positions in a desperate attempt to cause us many casualties and to cover its lack of success in other methods."

Levine said there was no doubt that Hizbullah would like to spoil Israel's Independence Day and any other celebrations.

"From our point of view, we fire only in self defense, and do the maximum to maintain restraint, not just because of the forthcoming holiday, but because we believe that Lebanese civilians should not be killed simply because Hizbullah is going wild and losing control of itself," he said.

Request from the Abenson family regarding their son lost in the area of Ein Gedi.

Whoever saw a young man by himself trying to hitch a lift in the direction of Jerusalem at the hotel area of Yam Hamelach (Dead Sea) on Thursday, April 23 around 7 p.m.

Description: Height 1.80 meters, baseball hat, blond/brown hair and trimmed beard, light blue shorts.

Please contact 02-538-7641 or 02-500-0712.



Remembering the fallen

Veterans visit the Anzac Day memorial at Mount Scopus in Jerusalem yesterday. (Brian Henderson)

New conversion body convenes for first meeting

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The Institute for Jewish Studies' directorate held its first meeting yesterday, with Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman wishing the body success "despite all the slanderers." The meeting of the institute, which was set up as a central conversion body along the lines of the Neeman Committee recommendations, was almost cancelled after threats by various sides earlier this week not to attend.

Nonetheless, representatives of the Reform and Conservative movements used the occasion to express their displeasure over the fact that the Neeman Commission's recommendations still have not been signed, or approved and adopted by the Chief Rabbinate.

Rabbi Ehud Bandel, president of the Masorti (Conservative) Movement in Israel, sent a letter to the meeting through his representative, Etti Sarok, saying that his movement does not see the institute's creation as the implementation of the commission's recommendations because, "as it is known, there are no such recommendations, since they were never signed, and will not be signed unless they are approved as they are by the Chief Rabbinate."

Rabbi Michael Boyden of the Movement for Progressive Judaism (Reform) said that "the problem of conversion in the state of Israel is a real one, and we will not be a party to illusory solutions. People continue to arrive in the country, mixed marriages continue, and I call on the

politicians to use pressure to bring about a real solution in Israel for those who want to convert."

Rabbi Meir Azari, also from the reform movement, wished the institute success, but said "we cannot separate between its work and the reality in the field, and we must find solutions for people who are suffering."

Branches of the institute are to be set up in various places throughout the country, first in Beersheba where there are a large number of immigrants seeking to go through the conversion process, to help teach converts about Judaism.

Neeman, in his remarks, praised the "sacred mission" the institute has taken on. Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky said the conversion problem was one that touched not only immigrants from

the former Soviet Union, but all of Israeli society. A year and a half ago, he said, it seemed as though the problem could not be resolved, while today it is clear it cannot be resolved via legislation or the High Court, but rather through other means, such as the institute.

Jewish Agency chairman Avraham Burg said "the real test of all the solutions is whether they treat the convert like a person, and that is how they should be judged... We are aware of the disagreements going on outside this room, and we will make every effort not to be drawn into them and to continue the dialogue. Because we have an obligation to those who need the conversion services, which are a direct result of the Jewish Agency's activities."

Israel, PA discuss environmental issues

By LIAT COLLINS

A joint Israeli and Palestinian project to collect and reprocess used olive oil and its waste products is one plan for cooperation discussed at a roundtable organized by Ecopeace in Jerusalem yesterday.

Both Israeli and Palestinian journalists attended the first of 12 roundtables planned by Ecopeace, a regional environmental organization working with Israel, the Palestinians, Jordan and Egypt.

Shmuel Brenner, senior deputy director-general of the Environment Ministry, said joint environmental plans should focus on projects in which there was no question of ultimate sovereignty of the area involved, such as the oil project and a joint solid waste treatment plant for Kfar Sava and Kalkilya.

Brenner said the Palestinian policy of not cooperating with Jewish settlements hinders a comprehensive approach to environmental issues. Mohammed Al-Hmaid, director-general of the Palestinian Environmental Authority, said that settlements are an obstacle to environmental progress.

Al-Hmaid also accused Israel of dumping waste in Palestinian areas and basing polluting industries in settlements.

Brenner said there is no policy to dispose of waste in the territories and said specific complaints would be dealt with.

Although the tone of the meeting was friendly, the undercurrent revealed deeply rooted suspicions.

Al-Hmaid complained that Israel not given the Palestinian Authority sufficient data and did not allow it access to Area C - which is under full Israeli control - and the natural resources there.

He also said Israel should supply the Palestinians with environmental impact assessments (EIA) for industries in the territories. Brenner, however, noted that the EIAs were required only for new industries and the factories Al-Hmaid described as polluters existed before the Oslo Accords.

Eitan depressed by 'dirty Israelis'

By LIAT COLLINS

Environment Minister Rafael Eitan yesterday took to task "the dirty Israelis." Having watched from a helicopter as an enforcement campaign of anti-litter laws was carried out by ministry patrols, Eitan said: "I am sad and depressed. Our country is dirty. I don't know any other word for it."

Eitan said that if local authorities cleaned up areas in their jurisdiction they might find they could use the land that today is covered by garbage.

Rani Amir, from the ministry's solid waste division, who located the offenders from the helicopter, said there is increased public awareness on tidiness but much more still remained to be done. He noted the two recent public awareness campaigns sponsored by the ministry: "Those who litter are trash" and "I've changed. I've stopped littering."

The maximum fine for dumping waste from a truck is NIS 150,000. This is doubled for a company discovered to be a serial offender.

The money from the fines goes to a special fund in the ministry

used for educational and information activities.

The Environment Ministry has reached an agreement with the Airports Authority under which Ben-Gurion Airport will be closed to outgoing night flights between the hours of 2 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. to prevent noise pollution. The ban will go into force on October 30.

Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom welcomed the decision, saying a balance should be reached between the needs of the residents to sleep and the economic concerns of the airlines.

El Al officials yesterday said the ban could cost them \$20 million a year.

Environment Ministry Director-General Nehama Ronen, a major force behind the ban, said it would later be extended and start at 1 a.m.

Several European airports have a similar ban and some permit night flights only for low-noise planes.

Ronen said with the declaration of the ban, the ministry will resume handling permits for the Ben-Gurion 2000 project to enlarge the airport.

Massala tells Falash Mura to leave Ofra

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

MK Adisu Massala (Labor), accusing the government of "cynically exploiting" the Falash Mura for its own political gains, yesterday went to the settlement of Ofra to explain its political significance to the newcomers and to urge them to leave as soon as possible.

Massala, who had conversations with the newcomers while they were on their way to and from conversion and Hebrew classes, told Israel Radio that Ofra "is a place that is part of the political dispute in Israel. These are people who are unfamiliar with Israel's political reality and don't understand the significance of [a place like] Ofra."

"This place is not suitable for absorbing new immigrants, particularly Ethiopian immigrants, who need to be absorbed in established communities in the center of the country, where there is work and places where they can be better absorbed socially. I am prepared to help them leave this place. In fact, I even recommend that they do so."

However, Ya'acov Alamon, an Ethiopian immigrant who has been living at Ofra for some time, said Massala "can say whatever he

wants; he's a politician. But we really want to help the new immigrants... We just want to help." Ofra secretary Yona Hoffman also rejected Massala's charges, saying that anyone who believes the newcomers were brought to Ofra because it needed more members is mistaken.

"There isn't a meter of available living quarters," he said. "We don't get involved in politics with them. We're just trying to teach them Hebrew as quickly as possible and have them go through a conversion class so they will be able to be as good Israeli citizens as they can be."

Absorption Ministry spokesman Yehuda Glick blasted Massala's charges of politicization of the absorption process. "If there are any other places he would like to put the immigrants, he knows our address and phone number. All I can say is that probably all the letters we got from all the other communities wanting to receive Falash Mura must have gotten lost in the mail somewhere."

"We don't have the same privilege that all kinds of MKs have to stand on the side and criticize what's going on," Glick said. "We have to provide practical solutions for the 500 immigrants from Ethiopia arriving every single month."

IDF catches Palestinian crossing into Jordan

By HANOT DUDKEVITCH

General Security Service officials are investigating 28-year-old Arabist Mohammed Said Kawad, who was caught by IDF forces as he attempted to cross into Jordan on Sunday night.

The IDF Spokesman said yesterday that Kawad was caught by troops in the Jordan Valley as he attempted to cross into Jordan close to Na'aran near Jericho. Troops shot at Kawad, who suffered wounds to the chest and was transferred by IDF helicopter to

Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem.

A hospital spokeswoman said that Kawad arrived shortly after 10 p.m. on Sunday and underwent surgery for a chest wound. He was described as light to moderately wounded by hospital officials.

The IDF Spokesman was unable to confirm if Kawad was linked to an incident on Friday afternoon where IDF troops discovered footprints leading from the border towards the village of Ouja, north of Jericho, which is under the control of the Palestinian Authority.



Investment is looking up - towards the Galilee

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A (partial) list of projects:

Leisure and Tourism		
Project	Location	Description
Holiday Village	Lake Montfort, Ma'alot	Private vacation apartment complex, 450 rooms in 3 stages. Can be split among a number of investors
B-class hotel	Lake Montfort, Ma'alot	200 rooms and conference hall
A-B class hotel	Nazareth city center	200 rooms, middle of hotel district, overlooking Old City
Hotel	Acre	200 rooms, superb location within the walls of the Old City, next to the Halls of the Knights
Motel	Rosh Pina	84 rooms, excellent location at Rosh Pina junction
Hotel	Rosh Pina	Refurbishing and redecorating the Schwartz Hotel, the first hotel built in Galilee, by Baron Rothschild
Timeshare hotel	Tiberias	A-B class hotel next to the Sea of Galilee
Hotel	Tiberias	Sports, leisure and entertainment facilities
Zoo	Karmiel	80 dunam site, plus attractions and hands-on activities
Vacation and sports center	Golani junction	Shops and sports facilities surrounding motels
Holiday village	Betzet beach	120 rooms, shops, sports facilities
Country Club	Migdal Ha'emek	Sports and leisure facilities on a 17 dunam site
Holiday village	Kibbutz Ma'ayan Baruch	80 rooms, camp site, restaurant (two-stage project)
Holiday village	Kibbutz Kfar Szold	80 rooms, restaurant and pool, next to Banias River
Holiday village	Yavne'el	240 holiday units, on 40 dunams of mountain rock
Tourism and vacation center	Kiryat Shmona	Hotel, amusement park and adventure hikes
Hotel and vacation center	Naftali mountains	Overlooking the Hula valley
Visitor's center	Koach Fort	Information and guidance center for tourists
Hotels and Visitor's center	Nazareth Ilit	Hotels - total of 3,000 rooms plus attractions
Retail		
Entertainment & comm. center	Lake Montfort	Restaurants, craft shops, and banqueting halls
Commercial area	Nazareth (Old City)	Restaurants, coffee shops and souvenir shops
Commercial center	Rosh Pina Junction	Areas for shops and services for motorists
Commercial center & Sheltered Housing	Migdal Ha'emek	14 dunam project, including shops, municipality building and sheltered housing for seniors
Road service center	Yavne'el	Shops and services for motorists
Market	Migdal Ha'emek	Franchise for construction of 5 dunam, 250 stall market
Industry		
Project	Location	Description
Industrial Park	Lower Galilee, Acre South, Safed-Hatzor-Rosh Pina, Alon Tavor, Bar-Lev (Ahihud junction), Teradion Misgav, Ma'alot, Zipporit, Goren, Kiryat Shmona, Tel-Hai Industrial Park	Environmentally clean and hi-tech plants

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NB: All projects are under the auspices of the relevant local authority.

THE GALILEE, WAY ABOVE THE REST



Ministry of National Infrastructure

Same dictator, same spots

There are lies, damn lies and politicians.

Few governments are more adept at attacking and refuting reports in the media about their country than Nigeria's. In recent years, almost any item published about the squalid dictatorship run by General Sani Abacha guarantees an indignant missive from the nearest embassy, denying every negative comment. (There have been few positive comments, except in regard to the supreme irony of Nigerian troops helping to restore democracy in Sierra Leone, under the flag of the East African peacekeeping alliance.)

Last year, some of these Nigerian paper darts poured scorn on editorials for suggesting that Abacha would not relinquish power, and would fiddle any promised so-called elections. Predicting that this nasty leopard would not change his spots hardly taxed the prophetic powers of any media hounds. Nonetheless, they have been proved correct.

This is the same Abacha who jailed Moshod Abiola on charges of winning the 1993 presidential election, who executed the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and nine of his environmentalist campaigners on a trumped-up murder charge, who uses troops against protesters, who smashes printing presses and who persecutes and imprisons journalists.

Home lovers

This weekend the dictator unwittingly gave 104 million ordinary Nigerians a chance to show what they think of him in manipulated general elections. They did — most Nigerians stayed at home. The pathetic turnout for Saturday's elections may have surprised no one overseas — it may not even have surprised Abacha, but he might at least have the grace to pretend it did.

Journalists on the spot reported that some polling stations recorded below 30 percent turnout — it is unlikely the government will release any figures. The next farce planned by Abacha comes in August when, as the only candidate (and despite his denials), he will seek a mandate to change his military uniform for a suit.

Unfortunately, the dictator within will remain the same, whatever the garb. Abacha still is a creature of the military jungle that spawned him.

The reluctant candidate Abacha has amazingly been adopted by five parties as their presidential candidate. For some odd reason they failed to take his coy "no, no, not me" seriously.

No change of government has taken place without military intervention since 1960, no weakness in front of them will go unoppressed.

The message of who is in control was not lost last week when a former deputy of Abacha, Lt. Gen. Oladipo Diya, was convicted along with a score of followers for plotting a coup. He could be exe-

cuted. In Nigeria, plotting a coup is only legal if it succeeds, as did Abacha's hijacking of the state.

Expedient hypocrisy

Many opponents of Abacha at home and abroad have been encouraged by the apparent success of the opposition boycott of Saturday's elections. This is naive, and it is wishful thinking. Most voters probably stayed at home because they couldn't give two figs for the event.

Even so, if Abacha can pretend to hold fair elections, the opposition can be forgiven for pretending to have scored a success in getting voters to boycott them. Democratic opposition to Abacha needs all the encouragement it can get — it has been fairly pathetic so far.

Inspired by the weekend's turn of events, opposition leaders of one party — United Action for Democracy (UAD) — have called for a Mayday mass protest. They are likely to discover that under repression it is easier to induce people to stay at home than to take to the streets.

Unfortunately, condemning Abacha outside Nigeria comes up against the age-old problems of expediency and hypocrisy. President Clinton excluded Nigeria from his historic tour of Africa last month for obvious reasons. But the US continues to buy 45 percent of Nigeria's oil — underwriting the dictator with around \$5 billion a year.

Once again, it's a case of blah, human rights, keep sending the cheap gas.

Published and damned

How bad is repression in Nigeria? It's bad. The United Nations only last week issued a bleak report listing massive political abuses, executions of political dissidents, including minors, and old South African style "accidental" deaths in prisons. Amnesty International's catalog of abuses is even longer.

Nigeria, a cultured and vibrant country, retains some defiant literary and artistic leaders. It once had the freest and best press in Africa, despite Nigeria's long run of coups, civil war and dictators. But at least 17 known journalists are now in Abacha's jails — most of them from the irrepressible *Tell* news magazine and *The News and Tempo*.

Prominent journalist Christine Anyanwu is serving 15 years for condemning a fake coup report trumped up by Abacha. The media have become hit-and-run news guerrillas. They move homes and offices, operate under cover, continue to pour out investigations of corruption, scandals, military infighting and power struggles.

Their efforts are keeping Nigeria's battered citizens vaccinated against the public-relations pap from Abacha's ministries. Just as importantly, their influence makes sure Nigeria's troubles are given constant international airing. The general can run for what he likes — but he can't hide.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

Saddam's grandest manipulation

Undercutting their claim that the embargo has brought severe hardships, Iraq's leaders enjoy lavish lives while depriving Shi'ites and Kurds of food and medicine

By ROBIN WRIGHT and CRAIG TURNER

WASHINGTON — As Iraq this week tries to persuade the United Nations to lift economic sanctions punishing the country, Iraqi leaders are facing a growing public-relations dilemma: New indications of lavish spending by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and his inner circle undercut their claim that the embargo has brought severe hardships.

The sanctions, which came up for review yesterday at the UN, are expected to be renewed because Iraq has not destroyed all of its weapons of mass destruction, as required under the ceasefire agreement that ended the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

Although the debate will focus on compliance with the weapons requirements, some allies view the suffering caused by the sanctions as a reason to try to ease the embargo.

Eight years after the United Nations imposed the toughest sanctions ever slapped on any nation, Iraq has lost an estimated \$115 billion in oil revenue. Iraqi leaders argue that the sanctions are responsible for food shortages, malnutrition and premature deaths. To be sure, the sanctions have taken an enormous toll on the Iraqi people.

Yet Western diplomats and experts on the region say that many other factors are also responsible, including government inefficiency, domestic repression, ethnic discrimination — and spending by Hussein on such comforts as new presidential palaces, which envoys were given access to for the first time this month.

Inside the compounds, envoys found palaces featuring imported marble, posh furnishings and elaborate landscaping — all paid for during the period the sanctions have been in effect.

There are other examples as well. When Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz journeyed from Baghdad to New York in November to complain to the UN Security Council about the sanctions, he made the last leg from Paris on the world's most luxurious jetliner.

The Air France Concorde offered Aziz and his team of seven aides pampered service, haute cuisine and wines from the cellars of the best French chateaux.

The round-trip fare per head, according to the airline, was \$8,453.20.

CLEARLY, DIPLOMATS and observers say, Hussein and his inner circle have escaped the most punishing restrictions.

Yet in the battle to influence world public opinion, they have exploited the hardships of ordinary citizens who have felt the squeeze.

For example, about the same time that Aziz was flying to New York, Iraqi officials in Baghdad escorted US and European journalists through the fly-infested pediatric ward of a hospital, and blamed a growing list of malnutrition cases and medical shortages on the sanctions.

In addition, government-organized demonstrators paraded



An Iraqi woman holds her sick son, who is suffering from diabetes and rheumatism, and desperately needs medicine. Many children in Baghdad hospitals have deliberately been deprived of food and medical care, diplomats say.

empty children's coffins through the streets to dramatize the death rate among children under age 5, which rose from 7,000 to 57,000 a year between 1989 and 1996, according to Iraqi statistics provided by UNICEF.

"Iraq has been utterly brilliant in the way it has played the sanctions card," said a Western diplomat who recently left Iraq. "It has turned punishment into a virtual asset in winning back acceptability and even helping the regime survive."

UNICEF estimates that more than 1 million children under age 5, nearly one-third of the youngsters that age in Iraq, are chronically malnourished. But diplomats and aid workers are raising questions about why these children are in trouble.

Many children in Baghdad hospitals are from Shi'ite Moslem and Kurdish areas, which have deliberately been deprived of food and medical care by the largely Sunni Moslem government, diplomats say.

The problems with food are also made worse by deeply ingrained inefficiency, say envoys familiar with Iraq.

"The system was hopelessly inefficient without a war," one diplomat said. "Add a war and the callousness of the regime, and you get dead and dying children."

JUST HOW Iraq has spent a share of its limited resources was discovered this month by diplomats who escorted UN weapons inspectors through eight presidential palaces.

"They were beyond grandiose," one participant said.

That first inside peek revealed eight palace compounds that contained a total of more than 1,000 buildings, with many more structures under construction.

The palaces featured walls, floors and artistic flourishes crafted from elegant marble in many hues — material both telling and costly because marble is not indigenous to Iraq, the envoys said.

At the same time that Iraq was installing pumps for the palace moats and canals, the regime claimed that it did not have such equipment for public sanitation sites in need of repair.

The eight compounds are among at least 48 new presidential sites

built since the Gulf War's end at a cost of up to \$2 billion, according to diplomatic estimates. That figure does not count furnishings.

Hussein's 60th birthday celebrations last year featured several special touches. A procession of 60 yachts owned by the president's inner circle and its allies sailed down the Tigris River, while more than 20 gold-plated statues depicting various moments in Hussein's life were unveiled in cities across the country.

A UN official stationed in Iraq said the regime is "obviously wasting money on palaces," although he did not agree that all suffering can be traced to the government.

He noted, for example, that child mortality is linked in part to water-borne diseases such as typhoid that thrive because Iraq's sanitation system was seriously damaged during the Gulf War.

The cost of repairs has been estimated at \$10b. — far more than the regime has spent on the palaces. Iraq simply does not have enough money to make those repairs, the official said.

IN 1996, the UN tried to ease the impact of the embargo on ordinary Iraqis by authorizing the sale of nearly \$2b. in oil every six months so the government could buy food and medicine that would be directly distributed by UN workers.

This year, the ceiling has been raised to \$5.2 billion, and the program has been expanded to include UN-supervised repairs of wrecked power and sanitation facilities.

Since the Gulf War, the Iraqi government has predicted a catastrophe because of chronic food shortages. It says it is short 61 percent of the amount it needs in grain supplies, 75% of the needed meat, 91% of eggs and 60% of milk.

But many experts challenge those figures.

"They describe a level of shortages greater than those that existed in Germany in the spring of 1945, after a strategic bombing campaign and mass land war fought on German soil," said Anthony H. Cordesman, Middle East program director of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. "That's physically and economically impossible."

The credibility gap is underscored by Iraq's own census.

Despite official claims of up to 1 million premature deaths and widespread famine, Iraq has experienced the highest population surge in its history — up from 17 million on the eve of the Gulf War to more than 21 million today.

Indeed, urban areas of Iraq not under repression have managed surprisingly well, according to diplomats and others in Iraq.

"Baghdad is not a starving city," said a diplomat who has done two tours in Iraq. "Iraqis in the street are well clothed and relatively well fed."

"Shops are well stocked, though the variety is limited. The bazaar is in full swing of commercial activity. And there are enough late-model and luxury cars on the highways to suggest that it's not just a small clique profiting handsomely now." (Los Angeles Times)

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KOHINOOR Kosher Indian Restaurant — Kashrut supervision by Rabbi Yosef Fink. Buffet lunch NIS 49 (children NIS 25) Open 12-4 p.m.; 6 p.m.-midnight. Holiday Inn Hotel, The Crowne Plaza. Tel. 02-658 8867, Tel/Fax. 02-653 6667.

MARVAD HAKSAMIN ORIENTAL RESTAURANT — Mid-Eastern and Yemenite food. Kosher/meat Open for lunch & dinner till 11 p.m.; Sun-Thurs., Fri. till 3 p.m. 16 King George St., (next to Caravel). Tel. 02-626 4470.

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Ministry of Defense - Rehabilitation Division
Section for Memorializing the Fallen

REMEMBRANCE DAY FOR THE FALLEN OF ISRAEL'S WARS

The day we remember our dear ones

On Tuesday, April 28, sirens will sound
throughout the country, at 8 p.m.

We call on all households to kindle a

MEMORIAL LIGHT

for our fallen heroes

On Wednesday, April 29, sirens will sound for a
minute's silence at 11 a.m., at which time national
memorial ceremonies will be held at military
cemeteries, and services will take place in
cemeteries where the fallen are buried.



Canadian PM on historic Cuba visit

Cuban President Fidel Castro meets with Canadian Premier Jean Chrétien on Sunday during a welcoming ceremony at the airport in Havana. Chrétien is one of a handful of Western leaders to visit Cuba, and is the second Canadian prime minister to do so.

Iran says it released alleged UK spy

DUBAI (Reuters) — A Briton reported to have been arrested in Iran for spying has been freed and has left the Islamic republic, Iran's Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi was quoted as saying yesterday by the official news agency IRNA.

"News of the arrest of this British individual relates to the past," Kharrazi said in an interview with IRNA, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

"He was arrested when, having travelled to Kurdistan (province) as a reporter, he was taking films in an area which was off-limits to the

public. After that he was set free, and at the moment he is not in Iran," the minister said.

Kharrazi's remarks were the first official Iranian comments on the case after the Tehran newspaper *Jomhuri Eslami* said on Sunday that the British citizen had been arrested and was alleged to have confessed to spying for Britain.

The British embassy in Tehran said yesterday it had been in contact with the Iranian authorities but had not received any official word about the man's detention or release.

The headline daily *Jomhuri Eslami* had said

the man presented himself as a BBC reporter.

But the BBC said the man worked neither for its radio nor television divisions.

Jomhuri Eslami yesterday urged Iran's government to send a signal to Britain by "punishing the arrested British spy."

"Iran's decision-making centers should not be indifferent to Britain's espionage operations, and should give a hard smack in the mouth to the evil British before they are tempted to revive their shattered espionage network in Iran," the paper said.

Kohl still defiant after electoral setback

BONN (Reuters) — Veteran German Chancellor Helmut Kohl yesterday dismissed speculation that he would be forced to abandon his plan to lead his Christian Democrats (CDU) in September's general election.

"This is absolutely not an issue for the CDU," he told a news briefing in Bonn after the CDU's hammering in Sunday's poll in the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt, where the far right made strong gains.

Nevertheless, the party's poor showing rekindled a party strategy debate about the federal election that polls predict the chancellor will lose. Kohl's critics stopped short, however, of calling for his removal as the CDU candidate.

The 66-year-old Kohl, seeking a record fifth term as chancellor, conceded that the CDU had suffered a "tough defeat."

"We didn't manage to convince the voters of the massive efforts we have made to improve living standards in the region," said Kohl, the architect of German unification in 1990.

Kohl loyalists acknowledged that the CDU had received a stinging slap in the face from east German voters but they rejected the assessment of Gerhard Schröder, the SPD's challenger for chancellor, that Kohl had lost the east.

The CDU plunged 12.5 points to 22 percent of the Saxony-Anhalt vote on Sunday, while the far-right German People's Union (DVP) shocked the political establishment by entering the

state parliament with 12.9%. Kohl added there was no doubt that a policy row in recent weeks between the CDU and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU), had harmed the CDU's showing in the poll.

Kohl made no direct reference to a call by CSU chief Theo Waigel earlier yesterday for the two parties to put more emphasis on traditional right-wing issues such as immigration and crime.

He said the CDU was still determined to occupy the center ground in German politics. "We have no need to learn any lessons in that area," he said.

He described the anti-immigrant ticket of the DVP as "completely unacceptable."

The DVP's campaign had blamed foreigners for rising crime and accused them of taking jobs away from Germans. The crime and immigration issues drew thousands of first-time and young voters to the far right-wing party.

In the Saxony-Anhalt poll, the incumbent Social Democrats scored modest gains to capture 35.9% of the vote. They will now lead negotiations with other parties, including the CDU, about forming a new state government.

The environmentalist Greens crashed out of the state legislature and the liberal Free Democrats (FDP), who share power with Kohl's coalition in Bonn, also fell short of the five percent electoral threshold.

Asked what he thought of the chances of a so-called "grand coalition" government emerging

between SPD and CDU in Saxony-Anhalt, Kohl said local CDU leaders had been given a free hand to determine their stance in the talks.

Saxony-Anhalt, a region west of Berlin with a population of three million, is one of six states created out of the former communist east Germany after unification with west Germany eight years ago.

Kohl was boosted by grateful east Germans in both his 1990 and 1994 election triumphs. But now many blamed him for the more than 20% unemployment that has accompanied the overhauling of the east's decaying, labor-intensive industries.

"We could have put up Arnold Schwarzenegger as a candidate and he would have lost," said Berndt Seide, the CDU premier of neighboring Mecklenburg-Vorpommern state.

He urged the CDU to go on the offensive in the two months before the summer holidays, otherwise the party would be hard pressed in the election on September 27.

Neither Seide nor Labor Minister Norbert Blum thought dumping Kohl in favor of his more popular anointed successor, Wolfgang Schäuble, made electoral sense.

Some young CDU members of parliament were more forthright.

Peter Altmeier, part of a group known as the CDU's "Young Wild Bunch," said the party should put Schäuble more in the limelight and should consider short-term measures to help create jobs.

Spain toxic spill expected to worsen

By MATY SPETALNICK

MADRID (Reuters) — A toxic spill in southern Spain has caused an ecological disaster that is worsening by the hour as contaminated water and acid mud flow towards the sea, environmentalists said yesterday.

Greenpeace said the huge tide of poisonous waste, diverted away from the Doñana National Park on Sunday, was killing everything in its path as it moved downstream in rivers and man-made channels to the Gulf of Cadiz.

Environment Minister Isabel Tocino said Doñana, one of Europe's most prized nature reserves, was out of danger, but she described the ecological damage to the region as "catastrophic."

Environmental groups criticized the government's response and disputed Tocino's comments that the situation at the 185,000-acre park was under control.

The crisis began on Saturday, when a giant holding pool at the Aznalcollar mine, owned by the Canadian-Swedish company Boliden Ltd, burst its banks.

Five million cubic meters of sludge poured into the nearby Guadiana River, heading downstream toward Doñana, a natural wonder designated by the UN as a World Heritage Site.

The spill cut a 30-km trail of destruction along the river banks, damaging thousands of acres of crops and killing birds, fish and crabs.

Authorities reported a handful of injuries, mostly people burned by acidic waters while rescuing pets and livestock.

Engineers scrambled on Sunday

to build three makeshift sand-and-earth dykes to protect Doñana, a vast sanctuary of sensitive marshlands, dense forests and sand dunes.

They diverted the tainted water, containing residues of zinc, lead and other metals, through channels to the larger Guadalquivir River and then out to the Gulf of Cadiz.

One of the dykes broke at high tide, but crews reinforced the structures overnight and all were intact yesterday.

The government said emergency measures saved the park's ecosystem, but environmentalists said the spillage had contaminated surrounding marshlands that serve as feeding and nesting grounds for rare bird species.

Authorities said the Guadalquivir, one of Spain's largest rivers, had enough capacity to dilute the toxins. But nature groups gave warnings of heavy losses to the fishing industry.

"They're more interested in saving ducks than people," a spokesman for Guadalquivir fishermen's group said.

Greenpeace accused the government of not doing enough and sent its ship *MV Greenpeace* to investigate.

Tocino asked a provincial judge to investigate the mining company for possible violation of environmental law.

"It is clear that the ecological damage, the environmental damage and the agricultural damage of this catastrophe... have been enormous," she told state television.

The spill, 50 km, upstream from Doñana, created a black stain on the surface of the Guadiana stretching for nearly a kilometer.

The farmers association ASAJA reported a preliminary estimate of 15,000 acres of farmland damaged, with losses totalling \$10 million, but it said the final figure was likely to go much higher.

Accusing the mining company of negligence, ASAJA demanded repayment of farmers' losses and said it planned legal action.

Large stretches of tomato and sunflower fields were stained black by overflowing waters. Other crops, citrus orchards, cotton crops and rice paddies were also affected.

"I'm ruined," one tomato farmer said. "I've lost my whole crop, my whole livelihood."

Environmentalists said the contaminated farmland would be unusable for years to come.

The river banks were littered with dead fish and crabs. The bodies of birds were also found.

The mayors of seven towns along the Guadiana warned people against drinking from ground wells. Sheep and cattle owners were told to keep livestock away from the river.

Boliden said the ground beneath the reservoir had slipped without warning. It said production had been halted at the mine "until we solve some of our problems."

The Swedish conglomerate Trelleborg, which owns a 41.8 percent stake in Boliden, said it saw no sign of negligence on the part of the mining company.

Canada's Placer Dome had a similar spillage in 1996 at its Philippine Maricopa mine. The cleanup of the nearby Boac River continues and Placer has agreed to spend \$75 million on the recovery program.

Lebed set to win Siberian governorship

By TIMOTHY HERITAGE

KRASNOYARSK, Russia, April 27 (Reuters) — Russian reserve general Alexander Lebed was firmly on course yesterday to become governor of the vast Krasnoyarsk region of Siberia and gain a power base to stand for president.

Unofficial results from Sunday's election in the powerful industrial region at the very center of Russia gave him 45 percent of the vote, nearly 10 percentage points more than his nearest rival Valery Zubov.

But neither man won the more than 50% needed for outright victory. The former paratroop commander and Zubov, the Kremlin-backed incumbent, will take part in a runoff vote, probably on May 17.

Lebed's blitzkrieg since arriving in Krasnoyarsk five weeks ago rang a warning to President Boris Yeltsin and the Kremlin two years before the presidential election.

The Kremlin is yet to name its candidate, and Yeltsin says he will not run again.

"Lebed is very dangerous for Yeltsin," Moscow-based political analyst Leonid Radzikhovskiy said in a television interview. "If Lebed wins these elections, then he will have a very strong chance of making a strong challenge in 2000," he said.

Lebed, 48, won about 15 million votes and finished third in the first round of the presidential election in June 1996. But he has been in the political wilderness, since falling out with Yeltsin four months later.



Alexander Lebed

(Reuters)

Lebed wants to represent a third force in Russian politics — anti-Yeltsin and anti-Communist.

He believes Krasnoyarsk, which has a population of three million and covers one-seventh of all Russia, can provide an industrial and political stronghold from which to launch his challenge.

Lebed, who will also win a place in the upper house of parliament in Moscow if he becomes governor, has said he will not run for president if he fails in Krasnoyarsk. But he now looks assured of victory

comments to work hard to turn Krasnoyarsk around and not just use it as a springboard to the Kremlin.

"I will work for as long as it takes to make Krasnoyarsk blossom," he told NTV commercial television.

Lebed promises "a strong Krasnoyarsk, a strong Russia, playing on his image as a disciplinarian after helping end separatist conflict in the former Soviet republic of Moldova in 1992 and ending Moscow's unpopular military campaign in Russia's breakaway region of Chechnya in 1996.

Lebed, who had 45.1% of the vote and Zubov, who had 35.4%, will now try to win over the supporters of the third-placed candidate, Communist Pyotr Romanov trailed far behind with 12% of the vote in a turnout of 63%.

Lebed said he would now publish more details of his program on agriculture, health and education. Zubov, 44, vowed to work as hard as possible for victory.

Zubov has based his campaign largely on presenting Lebed as an outsider and himself as a local man who gets things done.

An opinion poll shown by NTV on Sunday indicated Lebed would win 8% of the vote if a presidential election were held today. That is not huge support, but Yeltsin began his campaign in 1996 with less.

Lebed's key problem had long been a lack of big financial backers — something which he hopes interest in Krasnoyarsk's economic, social and environmental problems, but he vowed in televised

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A newly assertive Russia unnerves its neighbors

By WILL ENGLAND

MOSCOW — Small countries that border Russia have never been in an enviable position, and when Moscow starts to throw its weight around it means just one thing: trouble.

Trouble came to Georgia in February, and to Latvia and Norway in March. A new assertiveness is stirring in Russia, and the neighbors better watch out.

"Russia was disoriented for several years, and it had very little respect for itself," says Dmitri Trenin, an analyst with the Carnegie Moscow Center. "That can't go on forever."

And it hasn't. Self-confidence is blooming in Russia's political elite, and, fractious as it may be on domestic issues, there is very little dissent when Russia is seen to be standing up for itself abroad.

So Russia leans hard on Georgia over Caspian Sea oil pipeline routes, and over Georgia's friendliness to the West. Russian troops are stationed on Georgian soil; the breakaway region of Abkhazia enjoys Russian protection; fugi-

tives wanted in connection with assassination attempts on Georgia President Eduard Shevardnadze are harbored on Russian territory.

Russia leans hard on Latvia over treatment of its ethnic Russian minority, but also over oil-transit routes and Latvia's friendliness to the West. The Latvians hand Moscow a stick to beat them with by breaking up a demonstration of Russian pensioners, and then allowing a reunion of Waffen SS veterans to proceed in Riga with the heads of the army and parliament in attendance.

Russia threatens economic sanctions — and may in fact have already imposed them, in practice if not as an expression of official policy.

Russia can't lean on Norway, a member of NATO, for its friendliness to the West, but some in Moscow have accused Norway of making trouble as a proxy for another Western country: the US.

When a Norwegian foundation was looking into Russian dumping of nuclear wastes in waters adjacent to both countries two years ago, authorities here arrested a retired Russian naval officer

working for the foundation and charged him with treason.

Norway arrested the captain of a Russian ship and charged him with smuggling drugs; the Russian Foreign Ministry somewhat dubiously claimed that the Norwegians had tried to recruit him as a spy. Last month Russia and Norway each expelled a handful of diplomats for espionage.

Relations with Norway are hardly as tense as those with Georgia and Latvia, which Russians at times just barely manage to address as sovereign nations rather than former provinces.

But a visit by the Norwegian prime minister this spring was called off, and the Anti-NATO Committee of the Russian parliament has been actively promoting itself as a wellspring of indignation over Norway's perfidy.

RECENT RUSSIAN belligerence has at times seemed out of proportion to the stakes involved.

For instance, politicians have been lining up to see who can more fervently denounce Latvia

over its treatment of ethnic Russians, most of whom are ineligible for Latvian citizenship.

But that's an issue that goes back more than seven years, and is complicated by the inconvenient fact that most Russians in Latvia don't want citizenship there. Why has it suddenly flared up again, with demonstrations in Moscow and a unanimous media denouncing the Latvians?

"The Russian political class is a bunch of cynical people," says Trenin. "They don't care so much about their brothers in other republics. This is about Russia more than Latvia."

Who can make the most noise in defense of the motherland? So far, it's been Yuri Luzhkov. As mayor of Moscow he might be thought to have better things to worry about, but as a likely contender for the presidency in the year 2000, he needs to establish his national credentials outside the capital.

Politicians and analysts in Georgia and Latvia see the hand of Yevgeny Primakov, Russia's foreign minister, in Moscow's new assertiveness. Primakov, a KGB veteran who was appointed

two years ago, strikes many as a throwback to the old Soviet ways.

Vladimir Averbchev, a member of parliament with the generally liberal Yabloko bloc, says it's more complicated than that. A new and different Russia is emerging, he says, and is pursuing a foreign policy based on its national interests, rather than on ideology.

Primakov may bring a Soviet style, but with him are many younger politicians and business leaders who do not disagree with the approach.

"Some conflicts are inevitable," Averbchev concludes.

IS A tougher foreign policy successful? In Latvia, in the short run at least, Russia has come out well ahead. It has once more brought attention to the citizenship problem.

The head of the Latvian armed forces was fired, and, after bombs were set off outside Riga's only synagogue and the Russian Embassy, so was the city's police chief.

More concretely, the Italian foreign minister came to Moscow earlier this month, met

with Primakov and declared that Latvia's application for admission to the European Union was not likely to be acted upon until the rights of ethnic minorities are guaranteed.

And for the first time, says Trenin, Russian diplomacy has succeeded in isolating one of the three Baltic nations. President Guntis Ulmanis conceded that Latvia had to do some very serious repair work to its international image.

In Georgia, the game is more subtle, and that doesn't always play to Moscow's strong points. There are no emotional issues there that grab the attention of ordinary Russians.

Intervention in the conflict in Abkhazia is a delicate matter, because Russia cannot afford to be seen promoting any sort of national dismemberment, for fear there could be a backlash here in the form of another Chechnya.

The most recent assassination attempt on Shevardnadze in February infuriated the Georgians because it was clear that the operation had been planned in Russia. In March, Russia rounded up some fugi-

tives from the previous attempt on Shevardnadze's life (in 1995) and handed them over to Georgian authorities.

It was, says Averbchev, a concession to Shevardnadze and an attempt to shore up those politicians in Georgia who argue for friendlier relations with Russia.

But Russian aggressiveness mostly serves to strengthen anti-Moscow nationalists. The same is true to some extent in Latvia.

In both Tbilisi and Riga politicians argue that Russia's goal is a negative one — to create instability in their countries and thereby drive away Western interest. It's not a policy likely to win many friends.

A foreign-policy adviser to Shevardnadze, Gela Charkviani, asks why Russia doesn't try to win influence through business and trade instead of through bullying with sanctions and army bases.

The answer to that, says Trenin, is that Russia cannot compete economically with other countries.

The day will come, he says, "when the ruble is more effective than the rifle." But don't look for that to happen any time soon.

(Baltimore Sun)

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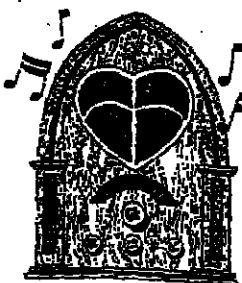
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Glam rock - Pulp's fiction

In Tune



By David Brinn

Jarvis Cocker's appeal lies in his constant struggle between succumbing to his X-rated sexual tendencies and reaching for spiritual higher ground. That tension helps make *This Is Hardcore* Pulp's most consistently successful disc.

THIS IS HARDCORE
(Pulp)
(Hollywood)

WALKING INTO CLARKSDALE
Jimmy Page & Robert Plant
(Hollywood)

IN MY LIFE
George Martin
(Red Arad)

The sexual confusion and spiky glitter rock of Ziggy Stardust-era David Bowie is nothing new but is given new life through Pulp, one of Britain's most commercially and critically successful Nineties bands. The band has legends of rabid fans addicted to leader Cocker's seedy, moody musings on life in his native Sheffield.

Placing himself as a screwed-up everyman, Cocker has found a large audience who see in him a spokesman for the disenfranchised.

On *This Is Hardcore*, Cocker's sexual obsessions would get a bit tedious if it weren't for the Roxy Music via The Cure groove that the band maintains throughout the record and for the sense of graphic Cocker injects amid his graphic fantasies.

The blatant Bowie derivations, particularly on "I'm a Man" are actually quite endearing and easily rekindle the spirit of platform shoes and skinny lead singers. When bam, thank you ma'am, redux.

THE RESURGENCE of Led Zeppelin's creative spark plugs Jimmy Page and Robert Plant is one of the more improbable but welcome rock events of the late 1990s.

Since the heavy metal pioneers breakup nearly two decades ago, Page has done everything he could to erase his status as the premiere rock guitarist of his era, first with his atrocious band The Firm, then on a string of solo projects and collaborations which reduced him to faceless crotch rock.

The original crotch rocker Plant, on the other hand, forged a solid career focusing on lighter, spacey music, proving that



Sheffield band Pulp gives new life to the glitter-rock era of David Bowie and Roxy Music.

despite Page's unmatched guitar prowess, Plant was the heart of Led Zeppelin.

The duo's 1996 reunion, *No Quarter*, was a tentative step back toward teamwork, with both parties cautiously avoiding the Zeppelin ghost in an attempt to create a "West meets East amalgam" replete with Arabic chants and odd rhythms.

On *Walking into Clarksdale*, the duo ably backed by a supple young rhythm section, comes to terms with those ghosts and make a Led Zeppelin record for the Nineties. Maturity is the key word, with Plant's curdling shriek and Page's brain damaging solos taking a back seat to a group of solid songs that stress the duo's experience and virtuosity in other ways.

Plant provides the rustic poetry/lyrics and the melodic framework for Page to strut his still formidable snuff. Pearl Jam may have learned everything they know from old Zeppelin records, but Page and Plant must have listened to Eddie Vedder and the

boys a few times for lessons on how to temper their hippie self-indulgent tendencies with concise Nineties power and succinctness.

Those tendencies die hard, however, with a few meandering tracks lacking focus and direction. But when the "World Was Young" bristles with 4/4 energy, and the title track is an ambitious blues stomp with a twist.

What could have been an embarrassing misguided reunion is actually an enjoyable, inspired effort that proves these two 50-year-olds are using their rocking chairs for something other than sitting.

ONE OF the more infamous songs of the 1960s was *Star Trek* star William Shatner's Shakespearean reading of The Beatles' "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds." It provided a sure laugh at parties, but renowned Beatles producer George Martin must have taken it seriously.

As his last project before retirement, he's gathered some of his favorite musicians and film stars

to record songs by The Beatles in some awful, to the point of funny, renditions that may have you searching for Captain Kirk.

If considered strictly for novelty value, the disc has its moments. Robin Williams and Bobby McFerrin team up for "Come Together" with some typically hilarious Williams improv. Likewise, rubber-mouthed Jim Carrey's version on "I Am the Walrus" makes you keep coming back for more.

The Shatner award this time goes to Sean Connery for his painful oration of "In My Life," rendering the song a maudlin joke. Other oddities include Goldie Hawn's sultry version of "A Hard Day's Night."

When Martin plays it straight, on Jeff Beck's instrumental showcase on "A Day in the Life" and Celine Dion's nostalgic "Here, There & Everywhere," the results display what could have been.

Martin has always been a class act, but it's a shame that his last hurrah is more fitting for the class clown.

Esther Ofarim returns from Hamburg

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

A short time after her son was born, 15 years ago, Esther Ofarim, one of the most popular singers the country has ever known, embarked on a new avenue in her illustrious and varied career. She began acting, appearing in the lead female role in Yehushua Sobol's *Ghetto* in a successful German production of the play.

But once the play's run was over she decided to call it quits. Slowly but surely she withdrew from the public eye and concentrated on raising her son.

Now Ofarim is back in Israel for another short phase in her somewhat obscure career.

Here to perform in the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra IBA special Independence Day concert (Wednesday, 9:15 at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem), she will also record two songs with Gidi Gov for his special Independence Day television show (which will be broadcast at the same time she will be singing in Jerusalem). A week later she will sing a few songs in the special Yoni Rechter concert with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

Esther Ofarim's current home is in Hamburg. "It is a beautiful city and a very elegant one. It's a cultural city and quite liberal. But I cannot call it home, it's definitely not the home of my heart. In the last few decades I've been living in London, Munich and Tel Aviv. This is my life. I don't really have a home. I have stations in which I stay for a while before I move onward. And as a matter of fact, this is the most practical solution for a curious and free human being."

Esther Ofarim was born in Safed and raised in Haifa. From the very outset of her career she has been an individualist, which is why she never even thought of joining one of the many army entertainment troupes.

"Being in such a group was like living in a kibbutz and I couldn't even think about the idea," she says today.

Her career began in the mid

Sixties and flourished in Israel, as well as in England and central Europe, both with the duo Ofarim (with her then-husband Avi) and in solo performances. "My career always developed in a parallel fashion: with solos and duos."

The name 'Ofarim' remains from the duo, though since they disbanded many years ago she has "tried to get rid of it but I couldn't. Just 'Esther' did not make any sense. This is how everybody knows me, and I must be content with that."

One of the major milestones in the first stage of her career was the Ofarim's song "Cinderella Rockefeller" which remained for four weeks at the top of London's Top of the Pops chart in 1967.

Since then she has been travelling and singing around the globe: London, Paris and even Nashville. "And then sometimes in the 1970s I would return to Israel and there was an enormous love pouring out between me and the audience."

In the 1980s she returned to Europe and slowed down performing. "It was much more important to be a mother. But now that my son is 15 I think I can occasionally do a concert here or there. But it is not always easy to return to the stage, she says. "This time it was not hard to convince me but it is always hard for me to convince myself. There are offers all the time which I usually turn down, but whenever I do agree, I enjoy it immensely."

The last time she actually sang a full concert was in Tel Aviv in 1988.

The media has followed her career very closely, at times maybe too closely, focusing on her private life which she has tried to protect.

This is probably why, when her new double collection disc appears in the near future she will avoid the usual publicity that goes with the release of a new record. "I hope that those who love my songs will purchase it but I'm not interested in doing interviews and talk shows, not any more."

Choosing the 30 songs in this album was an intriguing

process but not an easy one, because Ofarim does not usually listen to her own music. "I have a huge collection of LPs and CDs at home but mine are hidden at the very back where they can never be reached. I tend to listen to classical music, anything from early music to Ligeti. Classical music is a sea one can easily drown in and I enjoy it immensely."

As for her own music, she has forgotten many of the songs that brought her such fame. "It seems others know these songs better than I do. It's happened several times that one of my songs was played on the radio and I didn't even recognize it, at least not initially."

Ofarim does nothing to maintain her voice or remain in good vocal shape. She does not vocalize daily or even weekly or monthly. She begins training only in preparation for concerts. "Every time I sing I do it differently, but this is from my point of view and maybe no one else will hear it."

And she adds sadly, "I don't believe people actually listen, I mean really listen. People do not taste either. We live in a world that has lost its senses."

During the rehearsals for this week's concert she says she discovered "new things in my voice. It is older now, it is lower, the colors are different. I suddenly heard new sounds which I did not even know existed, but it is all coming from my body and it's great to feel that."

The concert in Jerusalem will feature some of Esther Ofarim's greatest Hebrew hits like *Hayu Leilot* as well as songs by Kurt Weill and Leonard Cohen. "Artists, and maybe not only artists, are very lonely people in this world. Exactly like a bird on wire."

Esther Ofarim promises that if the experiment with a symphony orchestra is successful and the audience enjoys it, she will return to the JSO in the future.

That question, however, is not even one for debate. Whenever Esther Ofarim sings she sends shivers down your spine. This time will be no different.

Beethoven on a roller coaster

CONCERT REVIEW

When Lorin Maazel began leading the IPO in the finale to Beethoven's Seventh Symphony it seemed as if the full house had begun the final curves of an amazing roller coaster ride, with no end in sight. It was one of the fastest finales of the symphony I have ever heard, a perpetual outburst of sounds which took one by surprise.

This was the conclusion of a great evening of music-making in which the orchestra was at its

very best (with the notable exception of the horns which had an off night) and in which both Maazel and the musicians were radiant from Beethoven's glorious music.

MAAZEL CONDUCTS BEETHOVEN - IPO
Mann Auditorium
April 25

Maazel is one of the greatest conductors of our generation. And this time around he waded his magic wand in an evening of Beethoven the likes of which we have not heard in many decades.



Lorin Maazel

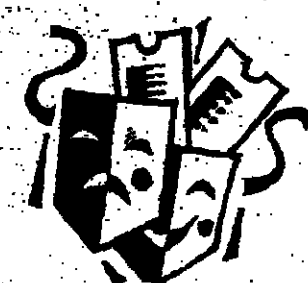
Maazel did not opt for interpretation per se. Rather he took the music head on, never stopping for a second, just an ongoing

drive of enormous expressions and emotions. And if the second movement of the Third Symphony lacked somewhat in the customary mourning facets one associates with it, and the Eroica indeed seemed occasionally a non-interpretive musical trip, the Seventh compensated for it.

This was a fitting opening for the series of IPO special concerts commemorating the 50th anniversary of our state. It was a concert no one will forget and many will cherish. It was one the orchestra will find hard to repeat, but there are a few more in these special gala concert series yet to come, and miracles never cease.

A pessimistic parallel from the past

Theater Review



By Naomi Doudai

Milchmei achim (Civil War, literally "war between brothers") is a theatrical event based on Josephus's *The Jewish War* and the Apocrypha and *Bizlik's Sefer Ha'Agada*.

It takes a tunnel view of the past, with which it offers a profoundly pessimistic parallel in its suggestion of a future of catastrophic dis-

cord and interecine destruction within our society. With the growing hostility between the fanatic fringes and the moderate elements of our population, this is what many of us fear for the future.

CIVIL WAR
Conceived and directed by Ilan Ronen
Habimah's Youth Troupe
at the Bimartef

The thrust of this powerful collage, a convergence of historical happenings and contemporary clashes, is prophetic. Further, it forces us to face up to the catastrophic consequences of such a threat and take action to avert it. Messianic madness, past and present, is presented in ten spine-chilling dramatizations of the apocalyptic nationalism and xenophobic savagery, ultraviolent terrorism and self-immolation start-

ing with the Essenes, the Sicarii, the Zealots, and the Macabees, and emulated by the Jewish underground and the Baruch Goldsteins and Yigal Amir of today.

In these, the process of a people's division into irreconcilable factions and small malignant schisms is graphically recounted.

Played in the round, audience participation is intensified in what, on the whole, are theatrically brilliant presentations, whether in mime, pageant, masque, choreographic, video, or realistic form. In the second half, however, there is a certain eclectic, indiscriminate confusion of genres and a strangulating use of symbols that, together with some almost Hollywood Biblical blow-ups, diminish the ultimate effect. They also minimize to some extent the force of the implied message - i.e., will history repeat itself in the second millennium?

For all that, this is a highly significant production that must be seen. Distinguished by Ilan Ronen's compelling direction, Micky Ben-Canaan's set and costume design, Yehudit Greenspan's masks, and Meir Alon's lighting, it is performed by an elegant ensemble of young actors finely honed in most (excluding diction, alas) theatrical skills. Among the more outstanding performances are those of David Gabish, Shirley Deshe, Sharon Reginiano and Yossi Einy. Finally, special mention must be made of the prologue and epilogue contribution of that mature and sophisticated artist, Boris Sichon. As much master of stage skills as of an original and dramatically powerful mix of background percussion effects, with his magnetic stage presence he cements the often too loosely assembled ingredients of this nonetheless harrowing and moving event.

Independence Day 5758

The 50th Anniversary of the State of Israel Celebration Association

Marking Israel's Jubilee

Main Ceremonies and Events

EVE OF REMEMBRANCE DAY FOR THE FALLEN OF ISRAEL'S WARS
Tuesday, April 28, 1998
10:00 p.m. Sirens throughout the country sound for a minute's silence, marking the start of Remembrance Day
10:01 p.m. Remembrance Day Opening Ceremony at the Western Wall, Jerusalem, in the presence of the President and the Chief of Staff

REMEMBRANCE DAY FOR THE FALLEN OF ISRAEL'S WARS
Wednesday, April 29, 1998
10:00 a.m. State Memorial Service for those who fell in hostilities, Mt. Herzl, Jerusalem, in the presence of the President, the Prime Minister, and the Speaker of the Knesset
11:00 a.m. Sirens sound throughout the country for two minutes' silence
11:02 a.m. Memorial ceremonies at military cemeteries, military sections of civil cemeteries, and at memorials, with bereaved families, the President, the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Knesset, government ministers, Knesset members, and public personalities
11:02 a.m. Memorial meeting for those who fell in illegal immigration, Illegal Immigration Museum, Haifa

EVE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY
Tuesday, April 29, 1998
7:45 p.m. Beacon Lighting Ceremony, marking the end of Memorial Day and the opening of Independence Day, in the presence of the President, the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Knesset - Mt. Herzl Plaza, Jerusalem

INDEPENDENCE DAY
Thursday & Friday, April 30 & May 1, 1998
7:00 a.m. Festive prayer services in synagogues throughout the country
9:00 a.m. Reception for armed services commanders, the President's residence, Jerusalem
10:30 a.m. Reception for outstanding service men and women, the President's Residence, Jerusalem
11:00 a.m. The World Bible Quiz for Jewish Youth - in the presence of the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Knesset, the Minister of Education, Culture and Sport, and the Chairman of the Zionist Executive - at the Jerusalem Theater
5:00 p.m. Reception for the Diplomatic Corps, the President's Residence, Jerusalem
7:00 p.m. Awarding of Israel Prizes - in the presence of the President, the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Knesset, the Minister of Education, Culture and Sport, the President of the Supreme Court, and the Mayor of Jerusalem - the Jerusalem Theater
8:30 p.m. Jubilee Bells, the main performance celebrating Israel's jubilee, in the presence of the President, the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Knesset, Knesset members, and public personalities

The public, including officers and ranks of the IDF, are asked not to bring arms to ceremonies, in order to ease the task of the security personnel.

THE JERUSALEM POST

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Who's being cynical?

Apparently there is no limit to cynicism and disgrace," wrote the leaders of Am Hofshi to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

The group was protesting the fact that the government had designated a haredi MK, Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush, as its representative to a ceremony in Holon marking Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars. If anything is cynical and disgraceful, however, it is the attempt to enlist the raw emotions surrounding commemorations of the fallen in a political fight against the haredim.

Unlike memorial days in nations for whom war has become a somewhat distant memory, here it is the rare family that has not lost a member or a friend in battle. The unifying nature of tragedy is perhaps its only consolation. Political bickering, besides robbing us of this slim consolation, in itself desecrates the effort to remember the fallen.

Though the commemoration that begins tonight is not a religious event, the term "desecrate" is not out of place. Israel, like other countries, has developed events and holidays that anchor its "civic religion," including also Independence Day, Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, and Jerusalem Day.

The fact that some in the haredi community treat the elements of Israel's civic religion with disdain and disrespect justifiably offends most secular Israelis. It has become almost an annual ritual for journalists to seek out some haredi youth tramping an Israeli flag on Independence Day, or walking about as usual during the siren on Remembrance Day. These haredim should understand that secular Israelis find their behavior about as offensive as they regard cars driving through their neighborhoods on Shabbat.

The haredim that refuse to acknowledge the siren on Remembrance Day insist that this is not out of disrespect for those who defended the state, noting that have the same objection to the siren on Holocaust Remembrance Day: It is not a Jewish mode of commemoration.

But this is placing haredi particularism above more important Jewish values, such as respect for the dead, gratitude, Jewish unity, and "recognition of the good."

More and more, the haredi community is becoming an inseparable part of the state that it selectively ignores. Porush himself is the perfect example, a haredi rabbi-politician whose United Torah Judaism Party wants the power of running a ministry without naming a minister,

so it can maintain an illusory "separation" from the state. This fig leaf becomes even smaller when Porush defends his right to represent the government at a Remembrance Day event — the same government in which he, on principle, refuses to serve as a minister.

Despite this contradiction, it is Meretz Party chairman Yossi Sarid who is acting anti-democratically by objecting to Porush representing the government on the grounds that "He who does not suffer bereavement would do well not to utter eulogies."

Secular politicians should welcome, not shun, haredi politicians who want to share in national events that go beyond the traditional concerns of their community. Sarid's objection would be more understandable if Porush were boycotting the event than defending his right to attend it.

Porush insists that he will not cancel his participation in the memorial in Holon, despite the threat of vigorous protests from the radical secularists. Porush is right to stand his ground, and the protesters should ask themselves why they are objecting to a haredi leader respectfully remembering Israel's fallen.

For his part, it would be useful if Porush would expand his identification with Remembrance Day by urging his community to participate in the national observance of moments of silence. A national moment of silence and reflection may not be a traditional Jewish construct, but neither is it anti-Jewish. No secular Israeli would object to haredim observing those moments with a more traditionally Jewish twist — by quietly reciting Psalms in memory of the fallen, for example. Nor should there be a haredi objection to adding a prayer for Israeli soldiers, as the national-religious do, just as prayers have been added to the prayerbook throughout the centuries.

The haredim have much to do to recognize the fact that they are living in — if not a Jewish state according to their lights — then a state of Jews. They should cooperate with the snowballing parliamentary efforts to find a way to restrict the military deferments for yeshiva students.

But the way to achieve this change is not via bullying by secular extremists who feed into the siege mentality that characterizes much of the haredi world. Those who demand mutual respect must practice it as well, and combine the techniques of the political battlefield with an attempt to understand each others' different, almost irreconcilable, cultures.



Jobs for haredim

EVELYN GORDON

The Religious Affairs Ministry, it was reported last week, is paying thousands of haredi yeshiva students a few hundred shekels a month for teaching Torah, even though the terms of their army deferments forbid them to work. Furthermore, the IDF and the Defense Ministry are both aware of the salary payments — which have apparently been standard practice for almost two decades — but have chosen to ignore them.

The cynical disregard for the law evident in this practice is clearly unacceptable. If the government can ignore the law as it pleases, how can anyone expect the general public to obey it? For this reason, such payments must be stopped.

Yet at the same time, it should be recognized that the widespread conspiracy to overlook this violation was possible only because the situation is fundamentally irrational, and is crying out for change. Tens of thousands of haredi men are currently not working purely in order to avoid the army. By law, if they accepted a paying job, their army deferments for yeshiva study would become invalid, and they could be drafted.

The result is not only rampant poverty in the haredi community — the National Insurance Institute's annual report on poverty consistently shows that the worst poverty pockets are in Arab and haredi neighborhoods — but a yawning chasm between the concerns of the haredim and the concerns of other Israelis.

For ordinary Israelis in their twenties and thirties, jobs and taxes are central concerns in the daily struggle to make ends meet. For haredim of the same age, however, these are non-issues. For them, the battle to make a living revolves around completely different questions — such as the size of yeshiva stipends.

This glaring difference in the most basic human concerns, which extends over decades, is one of the key factors in the creation of what often seems to be two completely separate societies in Israel — the

haredi and the non-haredi. As such, it is one of the most dangerous threats to the long-term cohesiveness of Israeli society. Yet the seemingly obvious solution to the problem — eliminating the yeshiva deferments — is impractical, given the opposition of the two most important parties: The haredim and the IDF.

The haredim vigorously oppose putting their children in a frame-

Tens of thousands of yeshiva students don't work so as to avoid the army. They should have the option of national service

work where they will almost certainly be exposed to those aspects of secular life which the haredim most dislike. The IDF, straining under the pressure of more recruits than it can handle, has made it clear that the last thing it wants is a sudden influx of a few thousand antagonistic, unmotivated young men who will require it to make difficult and expensive accommodations for their religious needs.

A BETTER solution might therefore be to give haredi youths the option of national service in lieu of the army. There are probably ample opportunities for such service within the haredi community, which means that most haredim would be able to perform national service within a haredi framework. This would eliminate one of the main haredi objections to army service. Since it would also exempt the army from having to divert precious resources to accommodating haredi needs, this idea would probably more readily gain the IDF's approval as well.

Such a solution would, of course, do nothing to eliminate the justified grievance which most non-haredi Israelis feel over the fact that their children risk death in the army while the haredim are exempt. But by enabling the haredim to join the wage-earning public, it would do much in other ways to provide common ground between the haredi and non-haredi communities.

A meeting of minds over such common grievances as low wages, taxes or unemployment would be much easier to achieve than a meeting of minds over kashrut or Shabbat observance, and would therefore do much to integrate the haredim into mainstream Israeli society.

It is possible that such integration would ultimately encourage more haredim to serve in the army. One of the psychological factors which makes large-scale avoidance of army service possible for the haredim is the sense of being a separate, and often beleaguered, community, rather than part of a broader Israeli public, which shares a common destiny and a greater sense of common purpose in the workplace could eventually lead to a greater sense of shared interests in other areas, such as national defense.

At the very least, however, having something as basic as working over jobs and wages in common would create a much-needed point of contact between haredi and non-haredi Israelis. Increasingly, these two groups view themselves as separate societies. Polls taken over the past few years show that the religious-secular divide has even replaced the Arab-Israeli conflict as the greatest threat to Israel's long-term survival in the eyes of a majority of Israelis — and understandably so.

Clearly, no country can long survive as two distinct and antagonistic societies. It is therefore crucial to take steps now to create a sense of common interest. Enabling the haredim to enter the workplace is by far the easiest way to do so.

Captain of the Titanic

DANIEL BLOCH

The operation was a success but the patient is dying. The operation was aimed at stopping rampant inflation and in this was very successful, perhaps even too much so. While treating the malignant cells in the economy, the surgeon — Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel — cut into the real flesh, harming several vital organs. The source of his mistake was to view inflation as the only problem and ignore other important components of a healthy economy and society, such as economic growth, investment, employment and productivity.

Unlike any other science, economic theory cannot be tested on guinea pigs in a lab. Any economic policy can only be tested in a real environment. The price, therefore, of a mistaken theory or poor performance is paid by real people, usually from society's lower echelons. But economic policy can and should be based on experience, domestic as well as international.

Frenkel's policy of reducing inflation rapidly at any price and at any cost, was tested in many countries: in the US by Ronald Reagan, in Britain by Margaret Thatcher, and in other countries in Europe, South East Asia and Latin America. In most cases, the immediate results were disastrous in terms of economic growth and employment.

Only when corrections were made, such as increasing temporarily the budget deficit, stimulating growth and infrastructure investment, did the trend change — economic growth resumed and unemployment fell, without significantly increasing the rate of inflation.

Since those disasters, every sen-

sible economist understands that one cannot fight inflation alone, without taking into consideration the human factor.

YES, inflation is bad but unemployment is even worse, not only for the unemployed person himself, but for his family, his home environment and society itself.

High unemployment changes the social atmosphere. Even those with jobs are afraid for their future. And when the public mood is gloomy, people spend less, and a psychological cycle of pessimism causes the recession to deepen even more.

Economies has much to do with psychology and is far from being an exact science. People do not always behave rationally, according to the prediction of economists from the Milton Friedman and Frenkel schools.

More than any other country, Israel cannot afford to pay the price of high unemployment and deep recession. We are a Zionist society still at risk of war. Our military expenditure is in large part the cause of our budgetary deficit. We need to continue the absorption of the last decade's massive immigration. New immigrants are usually the first to suffer from unemployment. We cannot allow the specter of no jobs to welcome soldiers who have completed their compulsory service or reserve duty.

All this is not new. It was known years ago when Frenkel started to implement his policies. Former finance minister Dan Meridor tried to oppose him, but was defeated

because of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's lack of support. The present finance minister, Yaakov Neeman, supports Frenkel's policies. What a mistake!

It is not too late to change direction, although our ship is on a collision course with the iceberg of unemployment and the captain is busy celebrating his new liberalization and privatization programs with the rich and famous.

It is still possible to avoid the imminent danger by giving new direction to the economy: increase temporarily the budget deficit and use the increase to invest mainly in infrastructure, and stimulate industrial production especially in development areas and hi-tech research.

The current economic crisis is partly connected to the stalemate in the peace process and to the decline in tourism due to fear of renewed acts of terrorism. Therefore, efforts to advance the peace process will give a renewed boost to our economy above and beyond other fruits of peace.

We must also bear in mind that the collapse of the peace process and an open rift with the American administration and Europe will have a bad impact on the international economic climate vis-a-vis Israel.

Then, even a wise and compassionate economic leadership will not be able to prevent disaster. Netanyahu should remember the lesson of Yitzhak Shamir. He lost the 1992 elections mainly because of high unemployment and the reluctance of the Americans to help him economically as he stalled the peace process and invested in settlements rather than development areas.

Divided at 50

ALAN DERSHOWITZ

The mood is cautious and reflective as Israel celebrates 50 years of turbulent statehood. Only after devoting a day to remembering the six million who died in the Holocaust and another day to remembering those who fell in the country's wars will Israelis feel free to celebrate their 50th anniversary. The celebration will be typically Israeli: concerts, symposia, debates — in addition to the bonfires on the beach.

The Israeli people are deeply divided over two fundamental issues: how to make peace with the Arabs; and how to make peace between the small, fervently Orthodox Jewish minority and the more secular Jewish majority. Tensions are high; rhetoric is loud; and tempers are flaring. Israelis are a passionate and opinionated people. Since the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, differences have turned to hatred. Israelis tend to focus on what divides them rather than on what unites them. But there is an Israeli mainstream which agrees on several basic principles. This anniversary is a good occasion to try to articulate the underlying consensus that exists within the obvious divisions.

First, nearly all Israelis agree that the Holocaust must never recur, and that Israel must remain militarily strong in order to prevent destruction at the hands of Iraq, Iran, Libya, Syria or other outlaw states which sponsor terrorism and are developing germ, gas and nuclear weapons.

Jews have learned the tragic lesson that morality without strength leads to vulnerability in a selfish world of realpolitik. They understand that any Arab leader who was to become capable of defeating Israel militarily and who did not act on that capability would not long be in power. Israel must remain qualitatively superior to the combined armies of the Arab world.

Second, nearly all Israelis want peace with the Palestinians and their other Arab neighbors. Nearly all Israelis agree that Israel should not control Palestinian population centers, and indeed the vast majority of Palestinians on the West Bank now live under Palestinian authority. The disagreements are over land — mostly barren land.

A small number of Israelis believe that the land is sacred and should not be given to the Palestinians even if that land is not necessary to the security needs of the Israelis.

Another small minority believes that all disputed land should be given up in return for a promise of peace, even if that land serves as an essential buffer zone. But the vast majority of Israelis would be willing to trade some land for a real peace with genuine security. Israelis argue not over the principle of land for peace, but rather how much land should be traded for what degree of security.

Third, the vast majority of Israelis believe that Israel should remain a Jewish state in which all citizens — regardless of religion, race or ethnicity — are equal. This is a complex balance to strike. For example, the national anthem, "Hatikva," refers to "the Jewish soul."

A tiny proportion of Israelis believe that this is "too Jewish," while another tiny percentage believe it is "not Jewish enough." The vast majority think it is just about right. This is something of a metaphor for Israel in general.

Fourth, the vast majority of Israelis believe that all Israelis should have freedom of religion and conscience, but a small minority insist that ultra-Orthodox Judaism be the established religion of Israel. The problem is that this small minority of religious extremists wield disproportionate power because of the nature of Israel's coalition politics.

Fifth, most Israelis despise the current structure of politics under which small minorities — such as the extreme religious Right — can dictate to the majority, but they feel helpless to change it.

Structural change is essential if majority rule is to prevail in Israel. The majority of Israelis are tolerant, decent, pluralistic and peace-loving people, but the system of government keeps this majority from getting their way.

The one thing all Israelis agree about is that a good argument is the Israeli national pastime. Indeed, Israel's greatest product is not oranges or even its high-tech gizmos. It is good conversation. There is no other place in the world where conversation is more spirited, more passionate or more interesting. My wish for Israel's 50th anniversary is that Israelis will continue to argue for another 1,000 years.

(United Feature Syndicate, Inc.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHERE'S THE PROOF?

Sir, — In his letter "Arab Immigration" (April 20), PJ Berlyn alleges that there was a large-scale Arab influx into Palestine during the period of the British Mandate, but no proof of the allegations is given apart from a brief quotation from Winston Churchill.

The subject was studied by the late Professor Roberto Bacchi, Israel's first state statistician. In his book *The Population of Palestine* published in 1974 by the Institute of Contemporary Jewry

of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Professor Bacchi gave the results of a careful examination of the facts.

From this book it appears that, on the whole, Jewish settlement increased employment possibilities for Arabs, and many of them moved within the country to areas of Jewish settlement, but there are no grounds whatsoever for such statements as Berlyn's.

I had occasion to inquire into this subject when I was editing a handbook on Israel several years

ago, and consulted him personally to make sure there was no misunderstanding. He assured me that there was actually a small emigration balance of Moslems from Palestine during the period of the Mandate.

It is time we got used to the fact that, in addition to our Arab citizens, we have under our rule some two million Arabs who want their freedom.

MISHA LOUVISH
Jerusalem.

SMOTHERED AND NEGATED

Sir, — From your "Pessah unity" editorial (April 10) to David Hartman's "reflections at 50" (April 14), the message that we have built a home for all Jews is being clearly relayed.

But have we really? Ironically, at this time of celebration of our freedom, as a Jewish woman I felt particularly oppressed and depressed. While the Pessah story commemorates the birth of our nation and several women of the time who worked to make this possible, I sat for four memorable hours in Gan Sacher April 14 and wit-

nessed a celebration entirely by male bands, singers, MKs, speakers and guests. When Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron spoke of our unity, I felt as if I, as a Jewish woman, was excluded.

Today I went to pray at the Kotel. Following this with a visit to the Western Wall tunnel I was amazed, shocked and, to be honest, disgusted, to discover a huge inner space abutting the Wall where men can pray, out of rain and sun. The small room on the women's side is totally inadequate for the number of women — and

their children — who visit the Kotel. Often, for us, the Kotel is quite inaccessible.

I am beginning to believe that, in a religion and a people where our ancestor Abraham was instructed to respect and listen to the voice of our mother, Sarah, true freedom, unity and redemption cannot occur while the voice, rights and presence of Jewish women are being smothered and negated. We have not yet left this Mitzrayim (Egypt).

NAOMI EHREN-LIS
Jerusalem.

POOR MANNERS

Sir, — In regard to Judith Weiss' impressions of Israel (Letters, April 23), my advice to her is to stay in New York and read "Miss Manners."

Perhaps she will learn some herself or, alternatively, come back to Israel with a batch of men's ties.

DR. DAVID LOEV
Jerusalem.

prediction, I predict that by the time of the Israeli national election following the coming one, the fog will have cleared for him and he will realize, even belatedly, where the center of gravity of the Jewish people truly lies.

CELIA BLIDSTEIN
Beersheba.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On April 28, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that Jews had been expelled from German universities, while Austrian and Czechoslovakian subjects of German origin were welcomed and allowed to become students.

50 years ago: On April 28, 1948,

The Palestine Post reported that at the UN, the US had finally admitted that the Trusteeship Plan may not be practicable unless Arabs and Jews stopped their civil war. Syria, however, was deeply perturbed by King Abdullah's leadership and reports that he had declared war on "Zionism" and that his forces had

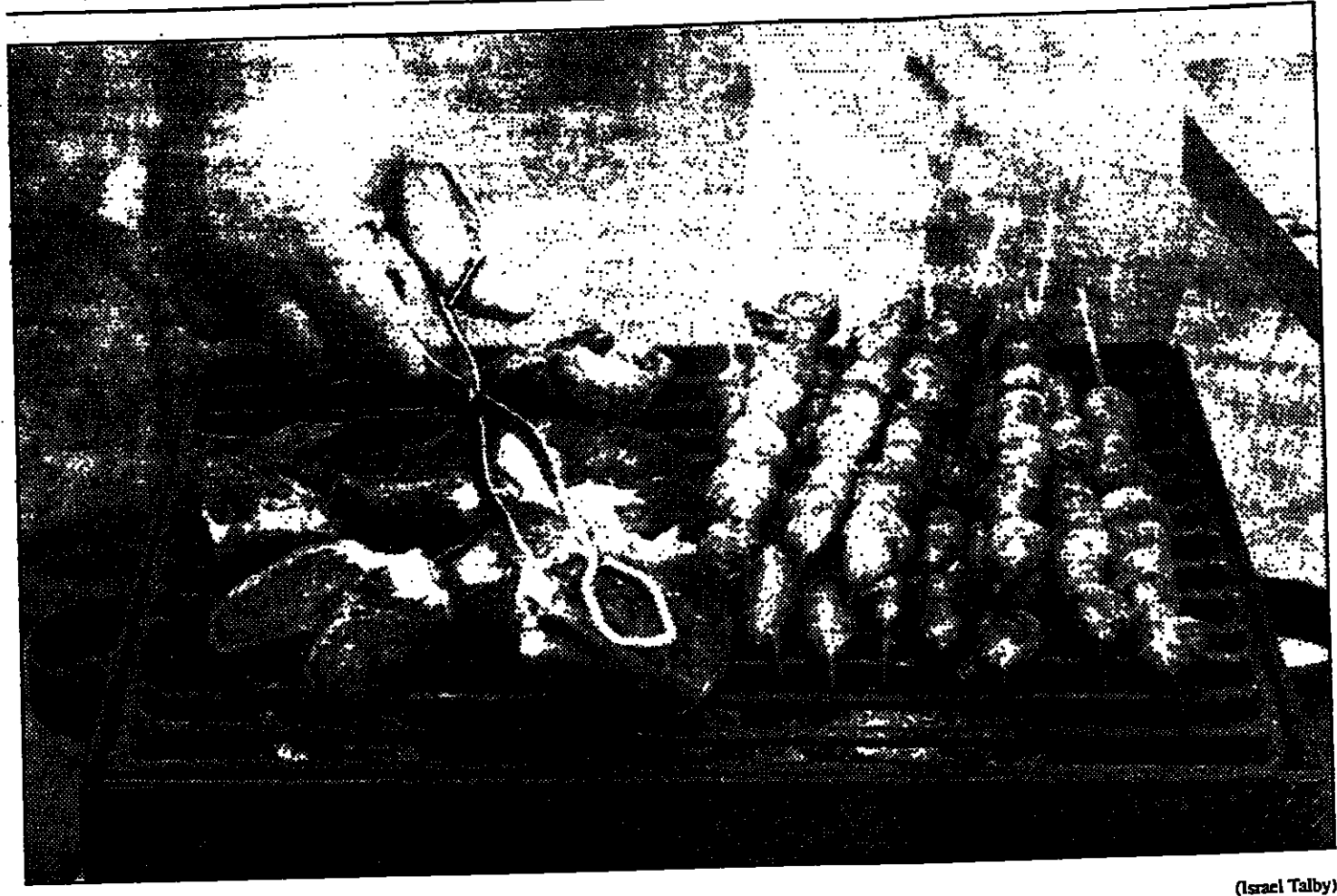
already occupied Jericho at the same time when Syria, Lebanon, Trans-Jordan and Iraq had previously coordinated a three-front invasion of Palestine to begin on May 1, with 40,000 troops at their disposal.

Alexander Zvielli

مكتبة القدس

Throw another shishlik on the barbie

Every Independence Day Israeli men can be found slaving over a hot outdoor grill. Allison Kaplan Sommer speaks to some (male) experts who run courses on the buying and preparing of meat



(Israel Talby)

It's nearly Independence Day, vegetarians take cover!

You can almost feel the heat rising from the grills already. As Independence Day approaches, the Nation of Israel begins to take cooking meat very seriously. Vegetarians take cover!

On Independence Day a cloud of smoke blankets the country, the smell of sizzling steaks and hot dogs fills the atmosphere and you can practically sense the collective national cholesterol level rising.

To Rafi Aharonovitch, a veteran butcher in Tel Aviv's Carmel Market, and the students who gather in his classroom for "The Meat Workshop" in Herzliya, meat is not simply a once-a-year interest, it's a year-long obsession.

Once every few months, these dedicated carnivores agree to part with NIS 600 of their hard-earned cash and three evenings of their busy schedules to sit and listen to Aharonovitch hold forth on the fine points of buying and preparing beef, lamb, poultry, and practically any other kind of meat.

This is not your average classroom. Students sit at tables neatly laid with place mats, plates and cutlery at Herzliya's Tadmor cooking school. Throughout the lesson various courses are served — all of them meat — prepared by a sous chef standing next to the lecturing Aharonovitch.

The wine flows freely, poured directly from the bottle or ladled from a pot of mulled wine filled with fragrant cloves and orange.

There is rarely a dull moment. Aharonovitch peppers his lecture with jokes and asides. He stands next to a poster of a cow showing the various cuts of meat. "I call her Shifra," he says of the cow, then looks at his students with mock anxiety. "I sure hope none of you is named Shifra."

Instead of a pointer, he indicates various portions of Shifra's anatomy with a long fork.

Aharonovitch is a big man with a wide — well, beefy — face, and a mischievous grin. He says that the goal of his course is to take the myth and mystique out of buying and cooking meat, a process which makes many cooks insecure.

He spares no details in describing the origin of various meats. He admits that the quickest way to turn someone into a vegetarian is to spend time in a slaughterhouse. Referring to Israel's most original achievement in meat — goose liver, of which the country is the world's leading exporter — he explains that this is because the geese are caged and cruelly stuffed, which causes their enlarged livers. It's a practice which is forbidden in many countries. "It's sick, it's unnatural, but it tastes good," he says.

The question Aharonovitch is most frequently asked by his students and acquaintances, is why steaks in Israel aren't as tasty as those available abroad. The answer, he replies, is complex.

First of all, in countries like the US, extremely fatty cows are raised in order to create US Prime steaks from their back quarters. But the other portions in these cows are so fatty as to be unusable. Such cattle farming would be impractical in a country with a smaller market.

But, he says, the main culprit in the poor taste of local steaks is the kashrut law, which prevents meat from being aged in the manner that gives it the most flavor.

Aharonovitch has a list of warnings for the local meat consumer. Since there is little uniformity, meat is a "wild market." So, he says, it is important to create a relationship with a butcher that you trust. "What is important to remember with meat is that there are no bargains, no end of season sales," he says. "If the meat is good, you are going to have to pay for it."

Aharonovitch points out various "tricks" used by local meat marketers, the most common of which is the injecting of frozen meat with water or other agents by unscrupulous traders. "Good meat shrinks 30 percent when cooked; some of the 'pumped-up' meat we

are a central part of the curriculum, co-owners Amnon Yerushalmi and Dan Kiri report that a disproportionate number of their students in the meat-smoking courses are men.

"There are a lot of men who like to cook in this country, and I think it is a growing trend in the Israeli public," says co-owner Amnon Yerushalmi. "And yes, in particular, a lot of men come to the meat-smoking lessons. I think it has to do with the fact that grilling and smoking are considered outdoor activities, and in the male realm."

A practicing Netanya lawyer, Yerushalmi counts himself among

Aprons, and he began sharing his smoking secrets with the general public.

"Smoking is a totally different way to prepare food. You vary the taste according to the kind of smoke and the marinade for the meat. We have become something of an information center for people who smoke food around the country. People come here and trade their tips and experience."

Although meat is the most common food smoked (fatty meats are best) Yerushalmi highly recommends and teaches techniques for smoking fish, seafood, duck, cheese, and even eggs and fruit. Most smoking is commonly done on a large grill-like structure outdoors smoking over wood chips and water. Yerushalmi enjoys working on a special smaller smoker using sawdust that can be used over a gas flame in the kitchen.

Like Aharonovitch's classes, the courses at The Three Aprons take place in the evening, and between explanations and eating the food, plenty of wine is consumed. Students range in age from their 20s to their 70s. "We get all kinds of people," says Yerushalmi. "And you can't stereotype the people who come as 'yuppie gourmets.' The only way I could characterize someone who comes to our class is a person who is interested in food."

The Meat Workshop is a course composed of three classes and costs NIS 600. Contact Rafi Aharonovitch at work on (03) 517-9462 or at home on (03) 523-1294.

The Three Aprons is located at 65 Hamelacha Street in the southern industrial area of Netanya, tel. (09) 865-6640, fax. 865-6639. Cooking classes range in price from NIS 85 - NIS 165; the course in smoking meat and fish costs NIS 120. Special group rates can be arranged.

"What is important to remember with meat is that there are no bargains, no end of season sales. If the meat is good, you are going to have to pay for it."

— meat cooking teacher Amnon Yerushalmi

get in Israel can shrink by 65 percent," he says.

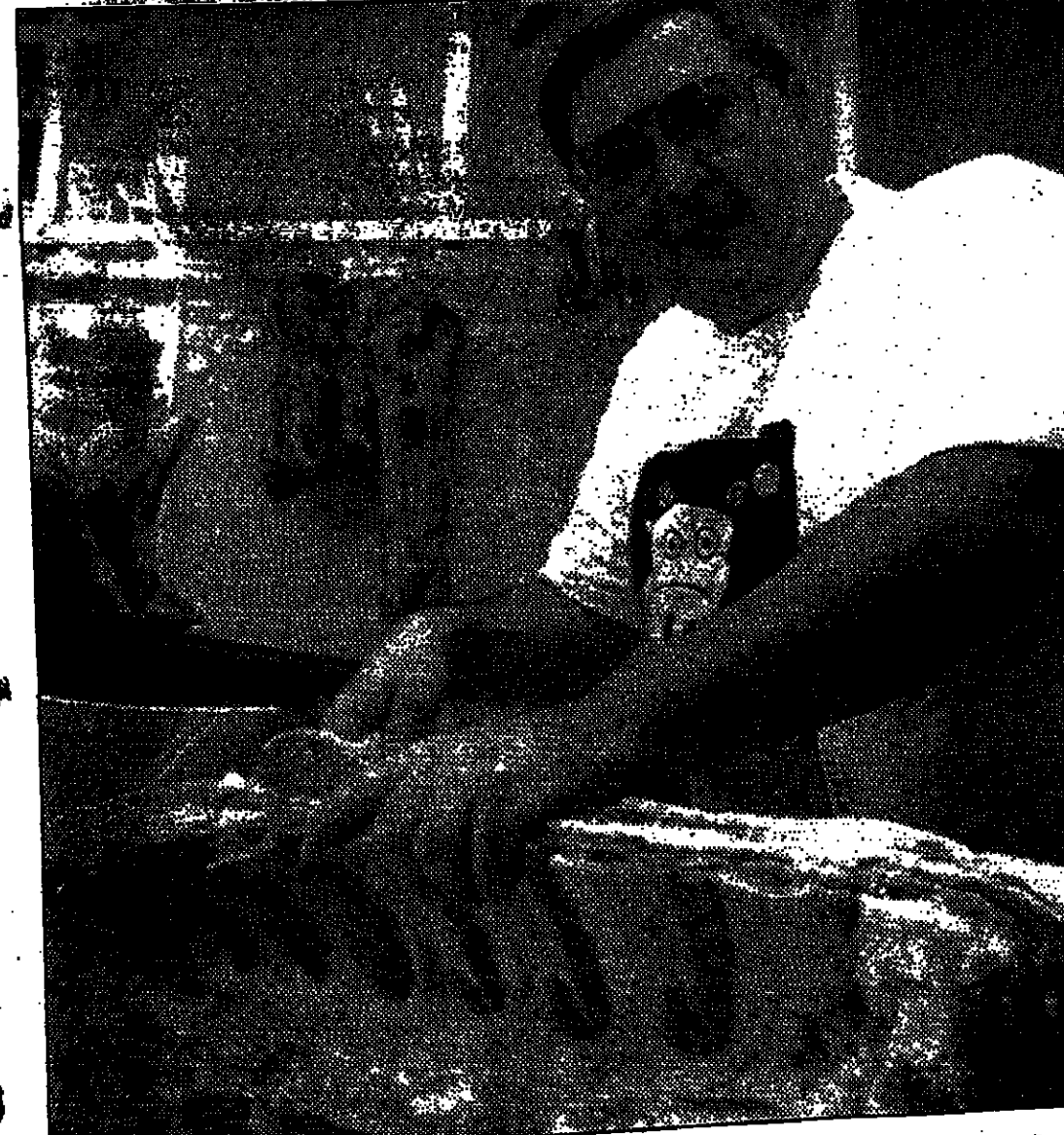
His students listen carefully and many take notes as carefully as if they were about to take a final examination instead of preparing a final meal. Many come in groups or with friends they enjoy cooking with.

The majority of the students are male, like Doron Shavit and Avil Almog, buddies from neighboring moshavim who proudly call themselves "such carnivores, we are practically cannibals," who enjoy hosting full large-scale barbecues on Independence day.

Somewhat, the cooking of meat, more than any other cuisine, overcomes the traditional sex roles. At The Three Aprons delicatessen and cooking school in Netanya, where classes in smoking meats

Israel's happy male cooks, and is thrilled he has been able to turn something that was once a hobby into a business. "I wanted to do something more creative," he says of his new-found profession. For 10 years he had been developing a growing interest in the process of smoking meat. "I mean, I liked to cook in general, but slowly I developed a special interest in smoking."

He took classes here and abroad, including a meat-smoking class in South America, where, he points out, only women do the grilling and smoking. "There, it is considered a dishonor for the men to barbecue." He also researched the subject in cookbooks and on Internet sites. Then, two and a half years ago, he and a banker friend, Dan Kiri opened the The Three



Over the next few months a group of dedicated carnivores agrees to part with NIS 600 of their hard-earned cash and three evenings of their busy schedules to listen to veteran butcher Rafi Aharonovitch take the myth and mystique out of buying and cooking beef, lamb and poultry. (Jonathan Bloom)

book department

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The family circus

I've never been much of a Biblical scholar, but I have wondered why, if we human beings are such superior creatures, our Creator decided to make us last.

I mean, did the Lord really have to sit around and make animals, fish and birds before he got around to creating people? Shouldn't we have been a little bit higher on his priority list? Why were these animals so much more important?

It's true, that down the line, he did try to make up for it by clarifying who was supposed to be in charge of the entire business. "Be fertile and multiply," he told his first man and woman. "Fill the earth and master it; and rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky and all the living things that creep on earth."

Well, I've had a bit of trouble following these Divine instructions recently. They seem to be contradictory.

You see, just a few short years after they decide to be fertile and multiply, man and woman become the parents of a toddler.

which sounds. One might think that all our kids were preparing for agricultural careers, since they know that the cow goes "moo" and the pig goes "oink." (This animal-noise, business, by the way, is quite complicated business for us bicultural folks. For some reasons that probably only linguistics experts can explain, Israeli animals and American animals make different sounds.

In America, a dog says "woof" and a rooster says "cock-a-doodle-doo." In Israel, the dog says "How-How!" and a rooster, "Cucku-ricool!"

Logically, there is no reason that this should be the first information we impart to our offspring. After all, we live in a high-tech era. Wouldn't it be far more useful for us to be teaching them at a young age that the computer goes "whirr," the modern goes "screech," and the answering machine goes "beep-beep?"

Nothing in this world gets the same enthusiastic response; and nothing is as important to us as

Home Front



Allison Kaplan Sommer

There is no possible way to fight the natural fascination little children have with anything resembling an animal

And the parents of a toddler can't even pretend to rule over the fish, birds and animals.

I'm starting to understand why they were created first.

You see, there is no possible way to fight the natural fascination little children have with anything resembling an animal. You can try to distract them, bribe them, get them interested in art, literature or physics — forget about it.

Anyone with a preschooler slowly watches their life become a three-ring circus — revolving around performing animals.

It begins when you are walking down the street and an alley cat or a dog happens to pass by. You must immediately stop so that Junior can stare at it and exclaim, "Cat, cat!" or "Puppy, puppy!"

Any attempt to move from the living object of adoration will result in high-pitched screams of disappointment. Should you be lucky enough for the cat or dog to finally dart out of sight, allowing you to get home, you then face countless hours of reading books primarily concerned with which animals make

making our offspring happy.

So off we go, spending every minute of our free time at the zoo or the circus or the petting farm — pilgrimages to the homes of our true masters, the beasts and the birds.

One acquaintance of mine basically rolls out of bed every Friday and asks his wife, "OK, which petting farm are we going to today?"

Yes, you get resigned to it after a while, and if you are lucky, you learn to enjoy it and take pride in the fact that you didn't scream when a goat spit on you or a snake wrapped itself around your arm or that your child French-kissed a turtle. You accept the fact that you will never really get the smell of bunny excrement off of the soles of your shoes.

And you try to look at the bright side. After all, if you read on a little bit further in the Bible, you get to the story of Noah's Ark. It's one thing to run around chasing animals, it's another to actually have to share quarters with them. Noah's kids, however, must have had a field day.



(Newsday photo by Audrey C. Tieman)

Murder, they wrote

Is there too much violence in American classrooms? Not in this one. The blood and dead bodies are part of a literature-criminology course, Jerry Markon reports

The woman's body lay face down on the floor, a trail of blood dripping down her cheek. Her limp hand cradled a small pistol. It was black; her hair was blond. The yellow police tape made it seem like a typical crime scene.

But this was no ordinary murder. This was a classroom at Huntington High School. A squad of detectives arrived. They were young, looked like rookies. One scooped up a white powder next to the body. Another combed for carpet fibers. A third found what appeared to be marijuana buds.

"Where should I shoot?" asked crime scene photographer, Kim Cohen.

"I don't know. I guess by the body," answered Detective Maria Lepera.

Their confusion was understandable.

Cohen and Lepera were not really detectives. The green substance was not marijuana. It was catnip. The white powder? Baking soda. As for the body, it was a mannequin. Very convincing, too.

The entire scene was staged for a class in which the Long Island students read mystery literature, then perform the forensics described in the stories — hair analysis, toxicology screens, fingerprint dusting — in a science lab.

The Mystery and Forensics class was the brainchild of English teacher Barbara Weschke and science teacher Marguerite Montefusco. The women realized last year how the crime novels that Weschke taught related to the class unit Montefusco taught on forensic science.

"She would tell me something, and I would say, 'I read about that in Patricia Cornwell,'" Weschke recalled.

So they wrote a curriculum for a course offered by both departments, got it approved by a committee of teachers and parents and the school board, and joined forces.

Students in the one-semester elective course study mystery literature with Weschke. Then they

go to Montefusco, where they practice investigating the crimes they read about. For example, the class reads *The Murders in the Rue Morgue*, an 1841 story by Edgar Allan Poe about the murder of two women, one stuffed up a chimney, the other thrown out a window. Since the culprit is an orangutan, students analyze human and animal hair fibers in the lab.

After reading *And Then There Were None*, the Agatha Christie novel about 10 people stranded on an island who are killed one by

one, some by poison, students perform toxicology and blood-type testing (although Montefusco uses lead compounds instead of actual poisons).

The class is realistic, as a school custodian who couldn't read English once learned to his chagrin. Missing a sign that read "Please Do Not Clean Room," he entered Montefusco's lab, saw the bloody mannequin on the floor and screamed. "The poor guy just about had a heart attack," Montefusco said. "I felt so bad."

Realism goes beyond the classroom. Students have visited police labs in Suffolk County and in New York City. Last year, at the Suffolk Medical Examiner's Office, they viewed dead bodies and later saw a filmed autopsy. "Some of the kids were so grossed out, they couldn't watch. Some were riveted," Weschke said.

Montefusco said the class tries to go "beyond book learning, actually applying knowledge of science to real life." That approach won praise from students as realistic and fun, although the course

has a heavy workload.

For the English portion alone, the fall term final project was to write a mystery, sketch the evidence, interview a crime expert and write an essay on a crime issue. Senior Eddie Jaramillo said the course helped inspire his interest in being a detective. "It's the best class I've had all year," added senior Kristen Haagenen. "I tell people in other schools I take this, and they say they wish they could."

The science portion was on display at the recent final project, which featured the body. Students took photographs, sketched, collected evidence — hair and carpet fibers and fingerprints — in sealed bags and analyzed it under microscopes. Montefusco paced the room like a strict, benevolent mother, offering advice and tart commentary. "I hope you're not picking that up with your fingers!" she said as Haagenen did just that with a glass vial next to the body. The girl sheepishly used tweezers.

The goal was to solve the crime — and one of the students was the culprit. So, who dunnit?

Seniors Haagenen, Amy Fisher, Yovani Campos and Jason Siragusa, working as a team, were stumped. Siragusa dusted the vial — Montefusco had lifted prints covertly earlier in the semester from four students — but couldn't find a match. Fisher determined that the hairs next to the body were human. Suddenly, Haagenen spied a footprint on a desk above the body. She looked down at Siragusa's brown Timberland shoes. "It's Jason!" she exclaimed. Montefusco confirmed the verdict.

The clues: the footprint, obtained earlier in the day from another student with the same shoes, and the fingerprints, which are Siragusa's.

"I can't believe she set me up," said a laughing Siragusa.

His punishment: cleaning up the mess.

But Campos called for harsher measures. "Give him the chair!" (Newsday)

Missing a sign that read "Please Do Not Clean Room," a school caretaker entered the lab, saw the bloody mannequin on the floor and screamed.

GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Speeches are a Jewish disease, especially on grand occasions when there are too many honorees deserving of praise. That accounts for the fact that some 1,000 people attending the gala opening dinner of the Israel Bonds Jubilee Conference at Jerusalem's Teddy Hall didn't receive their first course until 11 p.m. They had to sit through close to a dozen speeches, including responses by former prime ministers Yitzhak Shamir and Shimon Peres, who received special awards, and a concert recital by New York Metropolitan Opera diva Roberta Peters. Hoping for some definitive statement from Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, Israel Radio's economic correspondent Menachem Friedman vainly waited for hours. When Neeman finally did speak on behalf of former finance ministers Yigal Cohen-Orzag, Yitzhak Moda'i, Moshe Nissim and Avraham Shohat, who were also honored, he didn't say anything quotable. But maybe that's because all the finance ministers, who were presumably as hungry as everyone else, were called to the podium in the middle of the first course.

What the Bonds people really wanted to do was to have a little fun, which they did when singer Yehoram Gaon mounted the stage. First they started waving their napkins in time to the music. Then they got up and danced around the room in a giant conga and continued to kick up their heels together with a professional dance group performing Hasidic dances. Afterwards, when they went out into the lobby to take their dessert from the sweet table, they changed

Philharmonic Orchestra's salute to Israel's jubilee. Mehta has another commitment earlier in the day as the guest of honor of Vinod and Reema Pushkarna at a reception to inaugurate the newest link in their chain of Tandoori Indian Restaurants in Ramat Hahayal in Tel Aviv. A personal friend and one of their most loyal clients, Mehta's itinerary is so crowded that the Pushkarnas had to arrange the reception to suit the convenience of the conductor rather than their own. But they didn't mind. From their point of view, any excuse to be in his company is a good one.

IT'S taken a long time, but Tel Aviv University has finally got its own synagogue and Jewish Heritage Center through the generosity of philanthropists Norbert and Paulette Cymbalista, who will of course be on hand for the opening ceremony on May 19. The project, which houses adjacent equal-sized synagogues for Orthodox and non-Orthodox prayer services, is considered so prestigious that it will be inaugurated by two heads of state — our own president, Ezer Weizman, and Flavio Cotti, president of the Confederation of Switzerland. Unusual and impressive in its architectural concept, the Cymbalista Synagogue and Jewish Heritage center was designed by internationally acclaimed architect Mario Botta, whose recent projects include San Francisco's Museum of Modern Art, the Cathedral of Evry in France, and the headquarters of the United Bank in Switzerland.

A 72-year-old international real estate developer who lives in Switzerland, Norbert Cymbalista



Chief of jubilee activities Doron Shmueli (left) watches as the prime minister's director of communications, David Bar Ilan, receives protocol from the sindaco Day Caesar at the Cardo Culinaria in Jerusalem's Old City.

the beat as couples whirled around the floor to the tunes of Viennese waltzes. It was one of those rare occasions when, in addition to everything else, Israel Bonds could be described as romantic.

THERE'S a lot of rejoicing in the Dayan family. In addition to Ruth Dayan receiving a special award from Hadassah, her son Asaf Dayan, the filmmaker and actor, has been named one of the five recipients of the Education Minister's prize for television and cinema directors and scriptwriters. The prizes, which will be distributed at the Jerusalem Film Festival in July, entitle winners to a monthly NIS 5,000 stipend for a year. Aviv Gefen, another famous member of the Dayan family, is also in the news again. Gefen is following in the footsteps of his father, Yehonatan Gefen, and together with his wife, Hana Berkowitz, is making a career move toward the US. They are scheduled to leave on May 10.

It was another impressive event for a place that claims to have been hosting dignitaries for the past 22 centuries: The Cardo Culinaria, a Roman restaurant in Jerusalem's Old City, hosted foreign journalists in honor of the jubilee. In attendance: the prime minister's director of communications David Bar-Ilan, the PMO's director-general Moshe Leon, veteran photographer David Rubinger, AP bureau chief Nick Tatro, *The Financial Times* Judy Dempsey and *The Jewish Week*'s Michele Chabin, among others. The event was sponsored by the Government Press Office, the Foreign Ministry and the Israel Jubilee Committee.

JUST like the good old days. If Broadcasting Authority director-general Uri Porat could turn the clock back, that's exactly the way it would be. After trying to woo Chaim Yavin back to Channel 1, Porat turned his attentions to Rafi Ghat and invited him to revive Kolbotek, the consumer program which was on the side of the little guy and helped to expose so much of the country's malpractice. Ghat, though flattered, has contractual obligations to Channel 2. Porat also intends to move the *Mabat* news broadcast back to its 9 p.m. time frame and its half-hour duration.

CONDUCTOR Zubin Mehta will be well fortified when he takes up the baton on Saturday night at Ganei Yehoshua in Tel Aviv, where he will conduct the Israel

was born in Germany and was deported to Poland at age 12. Entering even in his youth, he escaped and succeeded in eluding the Nazis as he fled through Europe until he reached Switzerland, where he spent three years in work camps until the war was over.

SOMETIMES called the hymn-writer of the nation, lyricist and composer Naomi Shemer will earn the tribute of the nation and of some of the top singers in the country, who will perform her best-loved songs in two nights of concert at the Sultan's Pool, Jerusalem, on May 24 and 25. Shemer herself will also be on stage.

IRAQI government representatives serving in overseas posts may be among the participants in the international conference on the history, traditions and lifestyles of the Jews of Babylon. Mordechai Ben-Porat, chairman and founder of the Jews of Babylon Heritage Center, is still playing his cards close to his chest, but he is prepared to say that the four-day conference, which opens at the Tel Aviv Cinemas on June 15, will attract hundreds of scholars from Israel, Europe, the US, Japan, Hong Kong and Australia. There has also been an indication that members of the famous and fabulously powerful and wealthy Sassoon family from Hong Kong will be in attendance, along with many other well-known figures of Iraqi background.

Among the presenters of papers will be Professor Akira Usuki of Japan, Professor Heskel M. Hadad of the US, Professor Gideon Golany of the University of Pennsylvania, Professor Brian Weinstein of Harvard University, Dr. Meir Samra from Australia, and many other noted academics. The conference will be opened by President Ezer Weizman.

Local veteran Iraqi immigrants of note such as Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and former government ministers Shlomo Hillel, Moshe Shahal and Binyamin Ben-Eliezer are also expected to participate.

ACTRESS Uma Thurman, who turns 28 on April 29, is in the family way and expecting in July. She and significant other Ethan Hawke have applied for a marriage license in New York but have not yet announced a date for the nuptials. If they do go ahead with the wedding, it will be Thurman's second marriage. She was previously married briefly to actor Gary Oldman.

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Still loves his incestuous uncle

Dear Ruthie,
I am a gay, 34-year-old man who has been in a relationship with a wonderful man for the last six years. I am "out" to my family, who is accepting of my lifestyle, and welcoming of my lover. I have a good job, and feel that I am a well-adjusted person. I am usually very upbeat and enjoy my life.

So what's the problem? I recently confided in my partner that I had a sexual relationship with my favorite uncle who started when I was 12 and he was 19. This continued until I was 22, when he got married. However, we remain very close. He has been a wonderful friend and has always been there for me.

My lover is appalled at this story. He is convinced that deep down I must be scared and guilt-ridden. He is insisting that I immediately enroll in a course of therapy and thinks that I should expose my uncle to the rest of the family. My uncle is coming to visit us in June with his wife and daughter, and my partner says he will leave the house if he comes here.

I feel that he is making a big deal out of something that has never been a problem for me. Even at that young age I knew exactly what we were doing. I was a very willing partner and enjoyed our sexual encounters very much. My uncle was, and still is, a very beautiful man. My partner believes that I am in denial. I don't feel guilty about those years. In my mind they were wonderful. But now I am starting to worry that maybe down the road something negative will surface. I could do with some good direction. Out and Out of Touch? San Francisco

Dear Out and Out of Touch,
When an older family member engages in sexual relations with a younger member, there is both incest

and advantage-taking going on. In this respect, your lover is right to assume that you could not have escaped a such a relationship unscathed — even if you were a willing participant in those relations. Laws against statutory rape were enacted precisely to protect minors — not yet mature enough to make certain kinds of judgments — who participate willingly in sexual activities with figures of authority.

In your case, matters were complicated by the fact that your uncle was old enough to be an authority figure, yet young enough to be your brother. For this reason, you are even more likely to resist placing extra responsibility on him, and to insist that you "knew exactly what you were doing." Matters were complicated further by the fact that this was not only your introduction to sex, but to homosexual sex. Feeling yourself to be a "well-adjusted person," you cannot view this as having been harmful without viewing your homosexuality as such.

One indication of your sense that something was not quite right about this relationship is your having kept it a secret from your current partner for so long.

Your partner is wrong, however, in insisting that you immediately begin therapy to deal with the trauma he insists you must be carrying around with you. There is no point in seeking help for a problem you do not feel you have. If, at some point, you find yourself suffering, then that will be the time for you to get help.

In addition, there may be more to your partner's anger than meets the eye. Perhaps he feels threatened by the love you still feel for a man who had such a profound effect on your life.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. For E-mail: ruthie@jpost.co.il ("Dear Ruthie" also appears in *In Jerusalem* and in *City Lights* on Fridays.)

Dear Ruthie



Ruthie Blum

Tuesday,
April 28, 1998

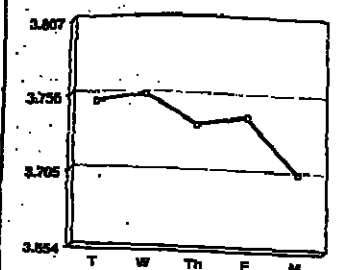
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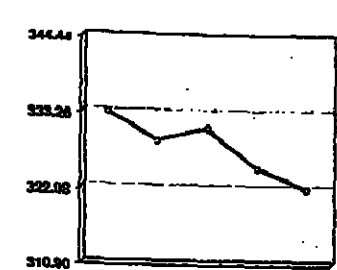
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in brief

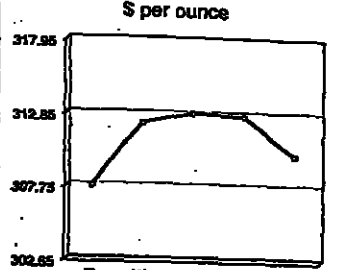
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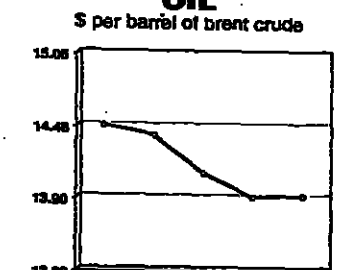
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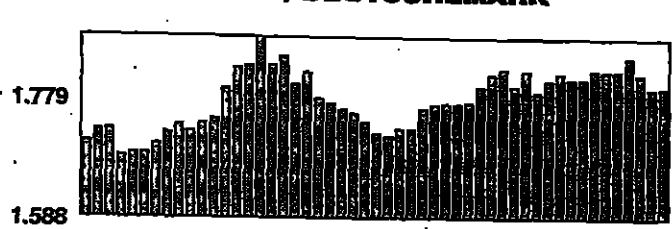
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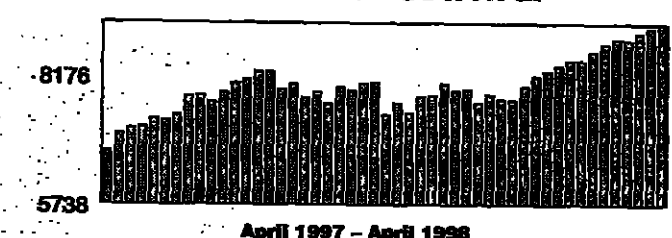
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DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



Dead Sea Works expanding potash capacity

Dead Sea Works yesterday announced that its board of directors approved investments of \$90 million to expand its potash manufacturing capacity and develop new water sources. The subsidiary of Israel Chemicals plans to raise its potash production by an annual 300,000 ton. In addition, the company will invest in new water drills, which are needed for the manufacturing process, south of the Dead Sea.

Discount subsidiary buys 20% of Mivtach Shamir

Discount Underwriting and Business Promotion, a wholly owned subsidiary of Israel Discount Bank, purchased 20 percent of Mivtach Shamir Insurance Agency for NIS 8.8 million yesterday. The transaction follows the decision of Migdal Insurance Co. last January to purchase, through a subsidiary, 25% of Mivtach Shamir for NIS 11m.

Expert: Israel's the place to be for biotech

"This is the time to invest in Israeli biotechnology companies," said Yoram Vilimovsky, a partner in Ernst-Young/Israel. He added that sales in the field totalled \$335 million last year (\$200m. in pharmaceuticals).

By DAVID HARRIS

The key lending rate will be reduced 0.3 percent to 11.9% in May, the Bank of Israel announced yesterday.

This will be the fourth interest rate cut in as many months, with the central bank's rate having come down from 13.4% in January. The Bank of Israel's rate is now the lowest since June 1994, when it stood at 11.51%. The lending rate peaked at 17.01% between December 1994 and February 1995.

Last night the commercial banks followed suit, lowering their rates by 0.3%.

The reduction was made possible by the

continuing decrease in inflation and the inflationary environment, including the levels of M1 money supply over the past 12 months, according to a central bank statement. Other factors taken into consideration included current prices abroad and employment levels at home.

Once again the bank warned that a cautious approach must be taken to lowering interest rates in order that the reduction in inflation remains permanent. The recent events in the Far East also indicate the need for exercising extreme caution when dealing with monetary and fiscal policy.

The bank urged the Treasury-Histadrut negotiations over public-sector pay result

in an agreement "that is appropriate to the employment market's condition and with economic targets set by the government and indeed overall economic stability."

Once again, the central bank said now is the time to bring prices down so they will remain at a consistent level, with inflation similar to that in Western Europe.

The cut in rates was welcomed by the Manufacturers Association, which suggested the trend continue at an accelerated pace.

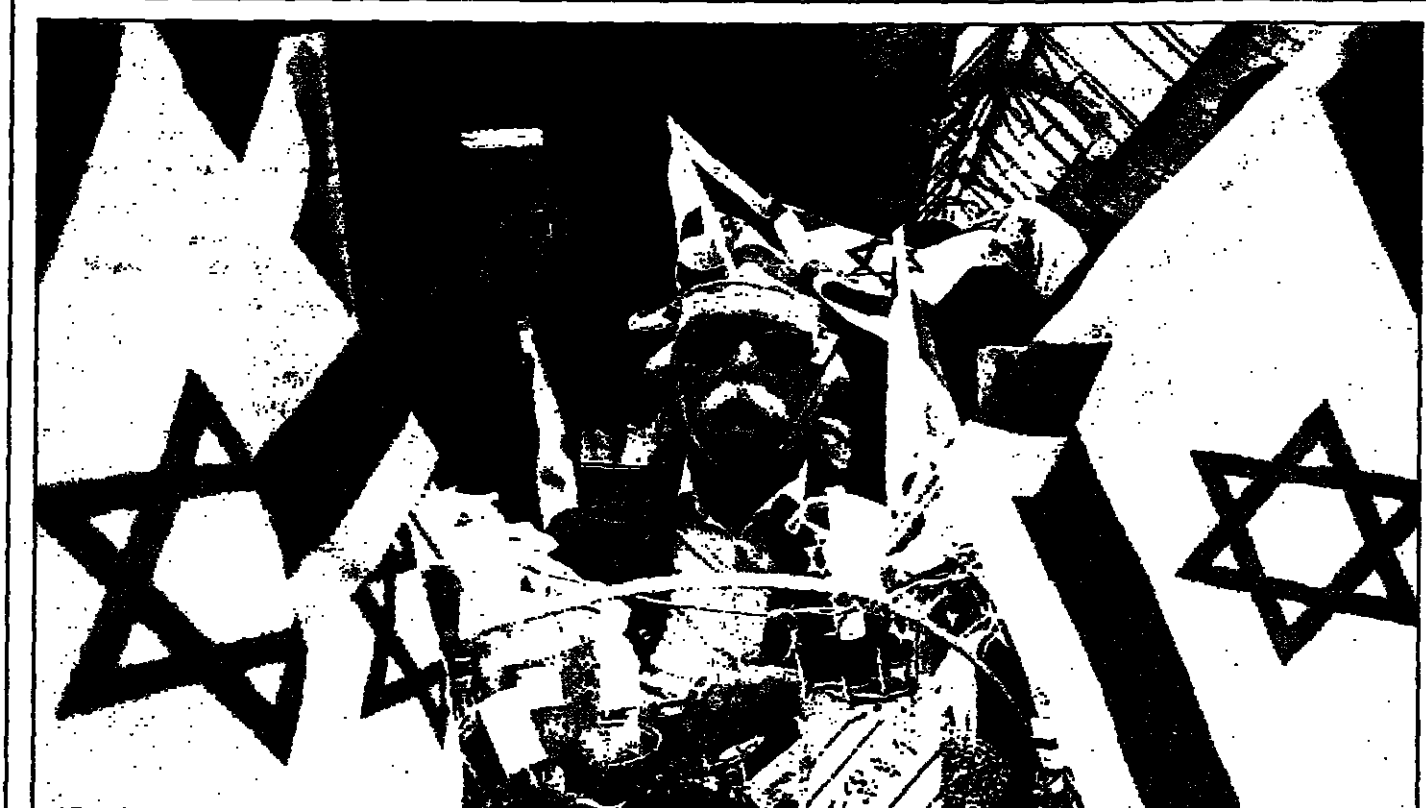
Meanwhile, the central bank's monthly integrated index of economic indicators showed a 0.1% fall in March, after a revised 0.1% increase in February. The

index now stands at 122.5, compared to 119.1 in March 1997 and 105.5 two years earlier.

Within the index there was a 3% decline in retail sales, which was offset by a 13% increase in the import index.

While the bank's indicator showed a decline in economic activity, the Central Bureau of Statistics' main economic indicators for February and March suggested an annualized increase to 3% in growth.

Included in the data is a 4% rise in exports of goods, a 3% increase in retail sales and a 4% rise (in February) in industrial production. These were added to by a consumer price index running at an annual 2%.



Buying blue and white

Business is booming for Israeli flag vendors this year. Flag sales have trebled this year compared to previous years during the week leading up to Independence Day.

(Reuters)

Trade issues resolved with Washington

By NINA GILBERT

Israel and the US have agreed on trade concessions in talks aimed at resolving problems with the free trade accord, the Industry and Trade Ministry announced yesterday.

According to the agreement, the US will exempt Israel's imports arriving via ports from the customs users fee. The only countries that enjoy this exemption today are Canada and Mexico, within the framework of NAFTA.

In exchange, Israel has agreed to allow the import of American food products that had previously been blocked due to Israeli standards, which require that food be packaged according to specific metric sizes.

The US argued that this was blatant discrim-

ination against American food products compared with imports from Europe and was blocking business opportunities in Israel.

The agreement on the issues was a result of talks that Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky held with US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky in Washington during his visit to the US last month.

The two "discussed several problems both sides were having with the trade agreement and committed to seeing what issues could be solved," said Zohar Peri, director of the Foreign Trade Administration.

Peri said Israel argued that it was deserving of the customs exemption since it also has a free trade agreement with the US.

According to Sharansky, the fee costs Israeli

exporters tens of millions of dollars a year. Israel has been asking for these customs to be removed for several years, he added.

Sharansky said the US has also committed to allow Israeli companies to compete in infrastructure projects offered by Rural Utilities Service.

Companies such as the Herzliya-based Teledata Communications have expressed interest in competing in the tenders for projects, worth hundreds of millions of dollars in the telecommunications sector alone.

Sharansky said these projects are not open to international competition and allowing Israeli companies to compete for such contracts would have great significance for the telecommunications sector.

According to Sharansky, the fee costs Israeli

Reed Elsevier to buy Times Mirror units for \$1.65b.

Reed Elsevier agreed to buy two legal publishing businesses from Times Mirror Co. for \$1.65 billion in cash, making the Anglo-Dutch publisher the leading publisher of analytical legal information in the US.

Reed Elsevier will purchase Matthew Bender & Co. and the half of Shepard's Co. it doesn't already own, as it resumes its expansion in professional journals and other niche markets.

The sale is part of Times Mirror's effort to focus on its newspapers such as the Los Angeles Times and Newsday.

Reed Elsevier, having canceled a \$9 billion takeover of Wolters Kluwer NV and sold IPC Magazines, said it may spend another \$2 billion on acquisitions to develop its electronic information business.

"It's not cheap, but it stacks up very well strategically," said analyst Paul Richards at Panmure Gordon & Co. "We'd be very happy if Reed spends another 1

billion" on acquisitions.

Times Mirror shares were unchanged at \$8 13/16 in midday trading of 85,000, less than its three-month daily average of about 141,000 shares.

Shares of Elsevier NV, which owns 50 percent of Reed Elsevier, fell 1.4 guilder to 30.5 in Amsterdam. Reed International Plc, which owns the other half, fell 24 pence to 563.5p in London.

Times Mirror said it expects a gain of about \$1 billion on the sale, which should be completed by the summer. It said it will use some of the money to pay back short-term debt and use the rest for investments, acquisitions and stock buybacks.

The sale, which was expected, comes as Chairman and Chief Executive Mark Willes pares Times Mirror's once varied publishing assets to focus more on newspapers and consumer magazines such as Field & Stream and Sporting News.

Last year Times Mirror sold its

National Journal Inc. unit, for an undisclosed amount. Before that, Times Mirror sold its Harry N. Abrams art book publishing unit to Groupe L'Atelier for an undisclosed amount.

Reed Elsevier, which last month said it was interested in buying Times Mirror's medical publisher, Mosby, as well as Matthew Bender, said it will continue to look at opportunities for takeovers.

"Continental Europe continues to be a major area of focus, but it would most likely be a series of smaller acquisitions," said Co-Chairman Nigel Stapleton in an interview.

If Reed Elsevier were to make a large-scale takeover, it would most likely be in North America, said Stapleton. He said the company has "at least" \$2 billion available for further acquisitions.

Last month, Reed Elsevier pulled out of its planned takeover of Wolters Kluwer after it demanded a higher stake in the merged business. Wolters Kluwer said it

Romania seeks ways to advance trade accord

By NINA GILBERT

Israel and Romania may decide to delay for a long period the inclusion of problematic sectors in a free trade accord in order to enable the advancement of an agreement, according to a proposal raised during talks on Sunday between Romania's Minister of Privatization Sorin Dumitru and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky.

The proposal was raised since Sharansky said it would be difficult for Israel to push ahead with a free trade agreement with Romania at a time of rising unemployment due to the vulnerability of many industrial sectors.

The sectors that could be harmed by Romanian imports include wood products, paper, glass, steel, electrical appliances, and clothing and footwear.

Dimitru arrived here to attend the Europe-Israel '98 trade fair being held this week at the Tel Aviv Convention Center in honor of Israel's 50th anniversary. Twelve countries, mostly from Eastern Europe, have official trade displays at the fair, which brings together some 500 European businessmen with their Israeli counterparts.

Romania also sent a representative to the fair to celebrate 50 years of uninterrupted diplomatic ties with Israel, according to Romanian Embassy First Secretary Ion Mitu.

In November, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited Romania.

During his talks with the prime minister, it was decided to start negotiations for a free trade agreement.

Romania is Israel's second-largest trading partner in eastern Europe, behind Russia. Exports totaled \$130 million in 1997 and imports \$97m.

ISRAEL ELECTRIC TENDERS

The Israel Electric Corporation wishes to purchase the following goods/services:

Tender No: 680855
Description: Disk Storage Subsystem for Main Frame
Quantity: 1000GB capacity, plus documentation, installation and training
Option: The Israel Electric Corporation reserves the right to purchase an additional order of the same quantity from the winning bidder. The option is open until January 1, 2000.
Cost of the tender documents: NIS 1,930 (inc. VAT).

Last date for submitting bids: June 7, 1998 at 11 a.m.

Additional pre-conditions:

A. Participation in the tender is also subject to complying with the preliminary conditions detailed in the Tender Regulations 1993, Para. 6(a) 1, 2, 3 (i.e., registration as required by law, compliance with mandatory specifications, and the holding of the permits required by law for transactions entered into by public bodies).

B. The Israel Electric Corporation reserves the right to allow a bidder who has not provided some required relevant documents, permits, licenses, etc., to submit them within a specified time that will be set by the Corporation.

The tender documents may be obtained Sunday - Thursday, at the Market Research and Tenders Department: 11 Sderot Pali-Yam, Haifa, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, and Tuesday - Thursday, at the Market Research and Tenders Department: 90 Rehov Yigal Alon, Tel Aviv, Ashdod Building, entrance C, 1st floor, Tel. 03-555-4679, 03-555-4641.

Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope and placed in Tenders Box No. 1 in the Ashdod Building, Haifa (address as above) by the last date for submitting bids, as stated above.

No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

NOTE: In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to Local suppliers, in accordance with the Tender Regulations (Preference for Locally Suppliers, in accordance with the Tender Regulations to Extend Commercial Cooperation).

The Electric Corporation reserves the right to negotiate, where this is legally permissible.

The tender is available on the Israel Electric Corporation's website:

www.israel-electric.co.il

Note: The office of the Israel Electric Corporation will be closed on Memorial Day (Independence Day, April 29-30, 1998).

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION

Information is available by fax and phone (recorded message):

1. On construction tenders - 03-638-8883 (Tel. 03)

2. On results of tenders - 03-638-9983 (Tel. 03)

3. On documents needed by the I.L.A. when dealing with various matters:

* Short term leasing of agricultural land, building additions, transferring rights, owner-occupier construction, etc.

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION Northern District

Build-Your-Own-House in Yavneal - Smadar Neighborhood (a total of 19 plots)

The Israel Lands Administration, in cooperation with the Ministry of Housing and Construction and the Yavneal Local Council, is offering 19 plots for the construction of one-family homes.

Registration will take place at the office of the I.L.A. Urban Transactions Department, Government Center, Upper Narareth on Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Tel. 06-558211.

Two of the plots will be allocated for disabled persons, as set forth in the prospectus, who are Israeli citizens who have not previously won a plot in a draw.

Nine plots will be allocated to Yavneal local residents and eight plots will be available for the general public. Eligible for registration are Israeli citizens who have not won a plot from the I.L.A. in a draw in the last ten years.

Other applicants must submit a declaration witnessed by a lawyer that they have not been won a plot from the I.L.A. in a draw for building a home in the past. The text of the declaration will be attached to the prospectus.

When registering, a bank guarantee or bank check for NIS 5,000, made out to the Israel Lands Administration, must be deposited as security for the land.

The prospectus is available free of charge at the above office of the I.L.A. from May 25, 1998.

This notice is for general information purposes only and does not obligate the I.L.A. in any way, either in terms of content or dates. The binding terms are those contained in the prospectus and its appendices.

ישראל מנהל אדמות

Internet address: http://www.mml.gov.il

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ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Building Blocks

By Nina Gilbert

In a survey of the economy's sectors at the beginning of 1998 compared with a year earlier, the building sector was found to be in the worst situation. Business Data Israel classified the building sector in its worst category: "in difficulties." A year ago, the building sector was classified as "weak," one category higher.

The study was based on a survey of 13,351 companies in the various sectors. The next worst performer after building was the commerce-and-marketing sector.

Many companies marketing time sharing units are not abiding by the new law passed in late March allowing buyers to cancel purchases within 14 days for any reason, according to the Israel Consumer Council. The amendment to the Consumer Protection Law also requires sellers to present buyers with an information sheet informing them of their right to cancel the transaction.

The council said it is continuing to receive complaints that companies are not presenting this information. The new law applies to all deals signed from March 31, 1998.

JERUSALEM AREA

A townhouse in Nahlat's Rehov Beersheba was sold for \$350,000 by Anglo-Saxon. The 180-sq.m. five-room home, which is in excellent condition, has two porches and a 40-sq.m. garden.

In Ma'aleh Adumim, a four-bedroom 138-sq.m. villa on a 440-sq.m. plot was sold for \$320,000 by Century 21. The house, in excellent condition, has a panoramic view.

On Beit Hakerem's Rehov Habani, a 100-sq.m. four-room apartment on the second floor with an elevator was sold for \$265,000 by Anglo-Saxon. The apartment has southern exposures, two porches and a store-room.

In Ramat Denia, on Rehov Gelber, a three-and-a-half room 90-sq.m. apartment was sold for \$200,000. The apartment, on the second floor, needs renovations.

TEL AVIV

In a new peak in the recent trend of offering perks instead of discounts to sell apartments, the

Andromeda Hill project in Jaffa is giving away 24-foot-long sailboats with the purchase of apartments 60 sq.m. and larger starting at \$320,000. The project has 270 apartments overlooking Jaffa port. The boats, valued at \$25,000, will be offered to buyers of the 40 apartments remaining in the project, some to be ready for occupancy in six months and the others in a year and a half. All apartments have views of the Mediterranean, and the complex includes a swimming pool and health club.

On Tel Aviv's Rehov Bodenheimer, a 68-sq.m. two-and-a-half-room apartment on the first floor with parking was sold for \$265,000 by Century 21. The asking price for the apartment, which is in fair condition and attractively located near Rehov Yehuda Hamaccabi, was \$280,000.

The agency also sold a one-and-a-half room apartment on Rehov Louis Marshall, in the Kikar Hamedina area, for \$165,000. The asking price was \$170,000. The 45-sq.m. apartment, in fair condition on the third floor, without an elevator, was bought as an investment, and according to Century 21 can be rented for \$600.

HAIFA

Yuval Engineering, a building company which is traded on the TASE and has projects throughout the country, is now completing the construction of a building of rental apartments. It is one of the first such projects in the city. The project is to benefit from a new law that encourages the construction of rental apartments.

The building, on Rehov Hagallil in the Nevei Sha'anana area, has 24 apartments. The company is offering high-standard three-room, four-room, five-room and penthouse apartments. Some apartments have gardens or views of the Haifa Bay area. Prices start at \$450 a month, and leases of up to five years are being offered.

On Rehov Hapalmah, a 100 sq.m. four-room apartment in excellent condition was sold for \$215,000 by Century 21. The asking price was \$235,000. The apartment is on the fourth floor with an elevator.

MARKET WATCH

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The currency reform, which is scheduled to be announced today, is expected to include a permission to invest in real estate abroad.

The Israeli dream of owning a second apartment in New York or London, or owning a summer house on the French Riviera, is closer than ever to becoming a possibility, despite the fact that there are still some major obstacles, not to mention all the technical problems associated with such a transaction.

The government's decision to grant a permit to buy properties overseas is seen by many as one of the most important components of the liberalization program, as it removes one of the oldest restrictions preventing Israelis from investing abroad.

Fears of a boom in the number of Israelis buying real estate abroad had in the past prevented the government from allowing this. In theory, such a step could lead to an outflow of foreign currency, which in turn could also bring a sharp devaluation of the shekel and a decline in local housing prices. Now, official sources dismiss those fears saying that as long as restrictions on institutional investors remain intact, there will be no massive outflow of foreign currency.

Those who speak about the dangers of the liberalization plan are mainly bankers and certain sectors that fear foreign competition. They are talking mainly about investments in real estate because it's a sector that has deposits in foreign banks," one official said.

One of the major factors that will determine whether it would actually be profitable to invest overseas is the taxation question, which is still unresolved. The government has not yet stated how much tax Israelis will be required to pay when they bring their money back home. It is clear, however, that the authorities will

do all they can to prevent the liberalization from turning into a simple way of avoiding taxes.

Investors would also need to consult experts to avoid a situation in which they will have to pay taxes both at home and abroad.

Even if taxation problems are solved, it is not clear how many citizens would actually exercise the new right, and industry sources present different ideas on the subject.

Aryeh Aviram, CEO of Century 21 Israel, believes that the liberalization would not lead to real change. "If I were the finance minister I would sleep well at night. A rush of Israelis to buy real estate abroad is not expected," he said. "Those who have the means to invest overseas and wanted to do so have done it already without waiting for the liberalization."

While Aviram believes that legal and technical problems will prevent Israelis from investing abroad, Mark Goldberg, assistant general manager of the European department at Gamolab Real Estate Investment Department, says that liberalization will lead to well-off Israelis buying property overseas.

"High-networth private individuals will certainly invest abroad," said Goldberg. "I don't know about someone with \$50,000,

whether he would want to go through the aggravation of owning an apartment abroad, but I think now that the restrictions are [about to be] lifted, a lot more people are going to invest there."

Goldberg believes there is also a strong possibility that instead of buying a second home here and renting it out, investors would start looking for apartments abroad. Such a move could lead to another decline in housing prices here as investors would look for higher returns abroad.

Despite the differences of opinion, Aviram and Goldberg agree that returns on investing abroad are much higher than those that can be earned by investing here. When people decide to invest, they want to know how much it costs, what they will get in return and what the alternatives are, said Aviram. According to him, "The Israeli investor can spend lots of money in the local market and receive an annual return of 4 percent to 4.5% on residential properties. The alternative is to invest in Paris, where market has been suffering from an on-going slowdown. There you can buy a studio apartment for \$25,000 which can be rented for \$300 a month."

Aviram believes that Israelis would focus on cheap apartments

in central locations such as London and Paris and will refrain from investing in riskier markets which yield higher returns.

"Romania is one of the most attractive markets and many Israeli companies are active there, but I don't see private investors putting money there," he said.

INVESTORS WHO want to invest abroad should remember that it involves legal considerations, dealing with local authorities, holding a lawyer in Israel and abroad, and having to pay high commissions to real-estate agents and management companies.

Those who decide, despite all the obstacles, to buy overseas should also realize that investing in Europe's major cities is not without risks.

Goldberg, who specializes in the UK market, recently published a report in which he said that investors who want to buy property in London should be aware that in most cases, the income from rent will only cover costs and expenses, including the cost of borrowing. According to the paper, profits will only come when the property is sold.

Goldberg says that interest in the liberalization plan is also coming from abroad, as foreign real-estate agencies wish to attract Israeli

investors.

"The biggest influx of foreign money came to the UK property market from the Far East. Now that the Asian market is slowing down, people are looking elsewhere, and the two locations they have been talking to me about are the US and Israel," he said. "We are now getting more and more calls from UK brokers and management companies who express interest in Israeli investors."

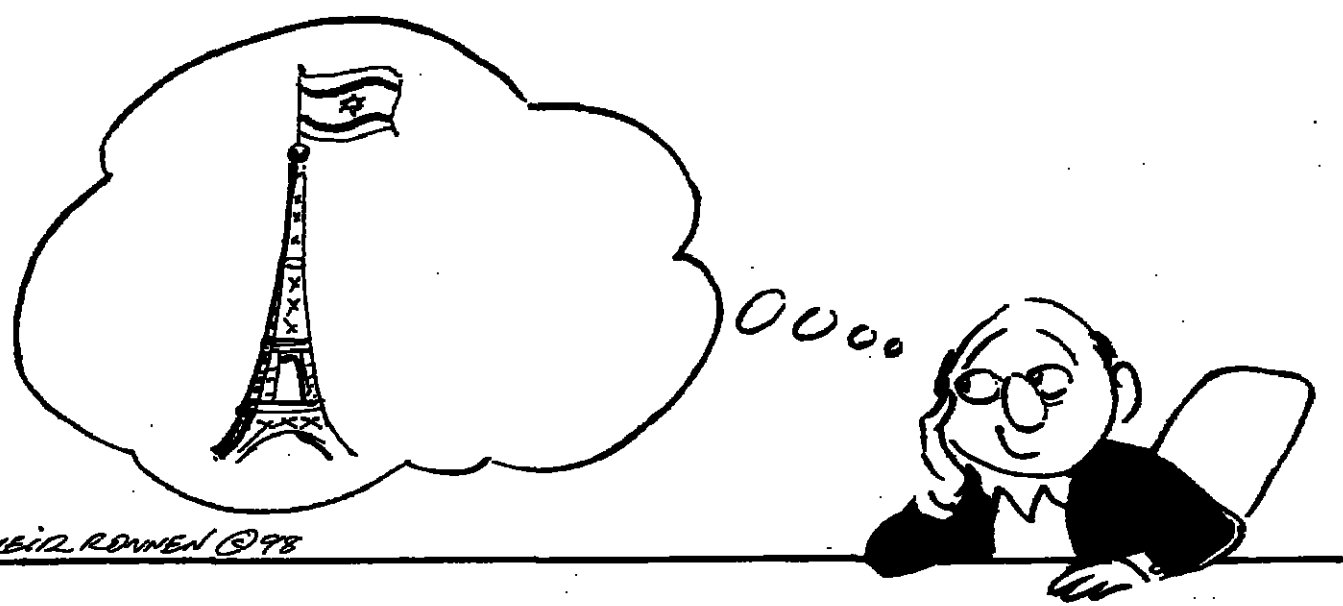
The vision of Israelis replacing Japanese investors in Europe may seem a little bit too optimistic, but there is a general agreement that the liberalization plan has definitely raised investors' interest in foreign markets.

"We feel that there is more interest in all our offices. If in the past, we had 10 inquiries a month, we now have about a 100, but I'll start packing only when it reaches 1,000," said Aviram. "If we'll see another 100 deals a year because of the liberalization plan, I'll be celebrating."

Even the more optimistic Goldberg agrees that the activity is limited meanwhile only to making inquiries and not to actual deals. "I certainly think that every Israeli who has the money available will consider investing abroad. Whether they will actually do so is another matter."

Forget Paris?

The government is lifting restrictions on a host of foreign investment opportunities, but Israelis may still encounter a variety of disincentives when buying properties overseas



World bankers more vigilant after Asia crisis

By ANDREA RICCI

HONG KONG - A year ago, everything was different.

Asian economies were booming, currencies were predictable and international banks were willing to lend to the region's borrowers at margins even lower than their own funding costs in order to cement business relationships.

But the rules changed. Currencies crumbled, borrowers couldn't repay and banks had to think more carefully about risk.

"The lay of the land has changed very dramatically," said Allen Clennar, head of treasury marketing and sales at Standard Chartered Bank in Hong Kong.

"And because of the market environment, no matter how vigilant one was before, there certainly is a need to be even more vigilant now," he said.

Clennar said Standard Chartered had been disciplined about managing its exposure.

But he said the de-linking of Asian currencies from the US dollar had introduced a level of foreign-exchange risk that never existed, leaving the bank and its clients vulnerable.

"Both in our financial-institution side and corporate side of things we are taking certain precautions for particular countries," said Clennar.

If customers don't pass muster, the bank won't do business.

Jim Gollan, managing director at KPMG Asia Pacific Consulting, said a survey taken by the firm in July and August of 1997 found financial sectors in many countries of Asia were poorly prepared to deal with crisis.

"The regulatory environment was not particularly demanding, and there was a very strong cultural sense that risk management was nothing more than meeting regulatory requirements," he said.

While some financial institutions had reporting structures in place and had established risk management committees, they had neither the "competence nor the commitment" to make proper use of such vehicles.

In some countries, regulators have tightened the rules.

For example, Thailand's central bank in March said it would require banks to submit monthly lending reports in both baht and foreign currencies as a way to increase transparency.

Malaysia's central bank cut the limit on banks' single-company exposure to 25 percent from 35% of capital. It also said banks would be subject to "stress tests."

Stress testing has become the new focus of risk management models on views the old "value-at-risk" frameworks could not address on their own the effects of extreme events such as the Asian currency meltdown.

And in Hong Kong, which has one of the more healthy banking sectors in the region, the bankers association, in consultation with the monetary authority, has established guidelines for dealing with customers in difficulties.



The GT Global Flyer passes over Hong Kong's central business district on its flight around the world: One of the more healthy banking sectors in the region, Hong Kong has established guidelines for dealing with customers in difficulties. (AP)

KPMG's Gollan said that to be effective, risk management must be part of every business decision - a way of thinking that up till now has not been prevalent in Asia.

"There is a cultural change that is required whereby risk management becomes a central management activity within a financial institution, where the chief executive is responsible for it and it permeates throughout the organization as a minimum requirement for having a license," he said.

Risk as it applies to business can be broadly defined by four categories, Gollan said.

Strategic risk - essentially how a firm fares against its competitors in a given market - and operational risk - such as computer-system integrity and prospects for fraud - apply to all companies.

The two other categories, credit and trading risk, are the big problems for financial firms particularly, he said.

Bankers are taking a much closer look at their customers' creditworthiness these days following the collapse of scores of Asian financial institutions and defaults by many others.

"We need to do more and more consultative discussions with the customer to see that everything is hunky-dory," said Standard Chartered Bank's Clennar.

"If they haven't got adequate protection, that certainly is a cause for concern and might cause some worry in the eyes of our

credit people," he said.

Steve Gilbert, regional treasurer at CoreStates Bank, said credit concerns were easier to ignore in the past when Asian economies were expanding and foreign funds were pouring in.

"Money papers over many sins," he said. "You took a position and hoped that when the music stopped there would be a chair." But that's no longer the case. Banks, both commercial and investment, are putting more resources into credit research and taking more care in choosing their customers.

As a result, business has declined as more institutions fail to pass the more rigorous tests. This, paradoxically, has had an effect on one area that could help banks manage trading risk - the derivatives market.

"We, along with many other international banks, have a restricted number of counterparties we can deal with, and that does hamper market activity," said the head of derivatives marketing at a major US bank in Hong Kong.

While demand for risk management products has increased, thin liquidity is hindering growth of the markets, the US bank manager said.

KPMG's Gollan said that up to now, Asian institutions have been extremely wary of derivatives. One of the problems is that local capital markets, which remain illiquid and immature, have not encouraged the development of exchange-traded derivatives.

CoreStates' Gilbert said Asia's wariness toward derivatives may have exacerbated its problems.

"I think there is a case to be made that the crisis was made worse by the fact that you couldn't hedge," said Gilbert. When currencies depreciated and stock prices tumbled, "the only hedge was to get out," he said.

"Those economies that have been allowing investors to hedge exposures may be the first to see recoveries in their asset markets, just as those economies that implemented the IMF reforms will be the first to see confidence return," he said.

Taiwan's central bank has just tightened rules on non-deliverable forwards (NDF), a hedging device where a forward price is agreed between a customer and a bank but settlement on the value date is undertaken entirely in US dollars.

The NDF market for Taiwan dollars had been one of the more heavily traded in the region.

Standard Chartered's Clennar acknowledged that not all derivative markets are as liquid as they could be. But he said firms wanting to hedge can find ways to do it.

And many more are looking.

"In the past, it was easy to adopt a non-proactive approach. But now, corporate treasurers are forced to be proactive, so NDFs and interest-rate hedges have come to the fore," he said. (Reuters)

THE CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

By GREER LAW CASHMAN

3.5 The Institute of Advanced Studies of the Hebrew University will hold its 7th Jerusalem Spring School in Life Sciences. Lectures on genomics will be delivered by experts from France, Canada, England and Israel. Today genomics is in the forefront of molecular biology.

4.5 The Council for Higher Education is hosting a two-day conference at Ben-Gurion University's Zonenfeld Building on Higher Education in Israel on the Threshold of the Third Millennium. Speakers will compare educational developments in Israel to those around the world and will examine the growth and success of colleges in relation to universities.

4.5 The first Israeli Symposium on Computer-Integrated Surgery, Medical Robotics and Medical Imaging, co-organized by Dr. Leo Joskowicz of the Hebrew University and Prof. Moshe Shoham of the Technion, will take place at the Technion. The symposium will bring together scientists, clinicians and engineers working in the fields of medical imaging, computer science and robotics.

4.5 Biotechnological industry, biomedical investments, patent issues, regulatory processes, strategic alliances and international partnerships are some of the subjects on the agenda of the Life Science Conference taking place at the Tel Aviv Hilton. Most of the speakers are from Europe and the US.

5.5 Research and Development to Ensure Israel's Security is the next symposium in the "Fifty years of Israeli science" series at the van Leer Institute, Jerusalem. Speakers will include former prime minister Shimon Peres.

5.5 Prof. Stanley L. Witkin will be the keynote

speaker at a Haifa University Study Day on Methodological Considerations in Social Work Research.

7.5 US ambassador Edward Walker will be the keynote speaker at a Besa Center Conference on The United States and the Middle East to be held in the Senate Hall of the Feldman Congress Building on the Bar-Ilan University campus. He will talk about "Current US Middle East policy." Other speakers, namely Barry Rubin, Menashe Amir, Shmuel Gordon, Max Singer, Joshua Teitelbaum and Gerald Steinberg will focus on issues such as "US policy on the peace process"; "US-Iran relations"; "US military reach in the Gulf"; "American strategy toward Iraq"; "The Gulf states and dual containment"; and "US responses to proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East."

10.5 The British Minister of Transportation will open the Metana symposium on road safety at Beit Ariella, adjacent to the Tel Aviv Museum. The symposium, supported by the British Government, is sponsored by the Betts Injury Prevention Project of the Hebrew University, the Hadassah School of Medicine, the Center of Injury Prevention and the Center for Driver Research. It is being held in conjunction with British Week and Israel's Jubilee.

10.5 Computers in the central theme of the annual conference of the Levinsky College for Education.

15.5 The World Council of Optometry, together with the American Academy of Optometry, will hold a four-day international symposium on Optometry in the Next Millennium at the Royal Beach Hotel, Eilat.

**DRIVE CAREFULLY!
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United sign £10m Stam to shore up defense

By STEPHEN WOOD

MANCHESTER (Reuters) - Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson has signed PSV Eindhoven's Jaap Stam in a bid to find a central defensive partnership capable of underpinning his bid for European success.

The Dutch international is to join United for £10 million (\$16.7 million), a world record fee for a defender, and Ferguson was delighted to have clinched the deal after a month of negotiations.

"Jaap Stam is a world class defender. I don't think there's any doubt about that. It's what we need right now and I'm very pleased that, subject to the formalities, we've finally got him," said the manager.

"He's a terrific defender who is quick and who can pass the ball and I'm sure he'll do well for us."

United have never adequately replaced Steve Bruce, their inspirational captain, who left two seasons ago after leading them to a league and Cup double.

Phil and Gary Neville and Norwegians Ronny Johnsen and Henning Berg have all been used to partner or replace injury-plagued Gary Pallister without ever looking rock solid.

Ferguson knows that to have any chance of winning the premier league title as well as achieving his cherished dream of winning the European Cup he must have defenders capable of stopping the likes of Ronaldo and Alessandro Del Piero.

"It's fair to say that we've had to change our centre backs quite a lot this season - more often than we'd like - but Stam will certainly be a great addition," Ferguson said.

"We have to be stronger to handle everything that's involved with domestic and

European football and bringing in players like Stam will only help us.

"There could be more teams in the European Cup next year and that would mean something like 10 group games. That puts a tremendous pressure on your resources, so we need to be ready."

The 25-year-old international said after winning the Dutch footballer of the year award last month that he had always wanted to play for the English champions.

"His dream has come true," PSV Eindhoven coach Dick Advocaat said.

"It's a very good thing for United. He's a real team player and one of the best defenders in the world."

Several English clubs showed an interest in Stam after he said he wanted to play in the premier league.

The previous most expensive defender was Spain's Roberto Rios who moved to Athletic Bilbao from Real Betis last year for \$12.9 million.

playing for FC Zwolle, Cambuur Leeuwarden and Willem II Tilburg before moving to Eindhoven.

His international debut came as a substitute against Germany in 1996 but he made his name in a friendly against Brazil where he was impressive in the air and in his marking of Ronaldo. He now has 11 caps.

"Stam's a real pro, he's very fast and he's a good header," Advocaat said.

"It's a very good thing for United. He's a real team player and one of the best defenders in the world."

Several English clubs showed an interest in Stam after he said he wanted to play in the premier league.

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Courier beats Chang to win US Clay Court Championship

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) - Jim Courier, coming back from an arm injury and a plunging ranking, beat top-seeded Michael Chang to win the US Clay Courts championship Sunday.

The 7-5, 3-6, 7-5 victory was an about-face from Courier's plunge to 57th in the world.

Courier, a former world No. 1, also overcame an upset stomach and cramps midway through the third set, then fought off three break points that would have left Chang serving for the match.

"I was looking down the barrel of a loaded gun," Courier said of his low-40 deficit with the score tied 4-4 in the final set.

He won five straight points to hold at 5-4 and then, leading 6-5, broke Chang with some pinpoint service returns. Courier won a tournament for the first since he defeated Magnus Gustafsson in the final at Beijing last October.

Courier, looking exhausted, lifted his arms as the crowd stood and whistled, including many friends and relatives from the nearby Dade City area where he grew up.

He had his legs packed in ice for a few moments before accepting the winner's trophy.

It took him nearly an hour to turn up for a postmatch press conference following the 2-hour, 44-minute match.

Courier labored through six deuces to hold at 4-3 in the final set.

As soon as the game was over, he called for trainer Bill Norris, who massaged heat-producing ointment into both of Courier's legs.

He looked finished as Chang held easily at 40-15 to make it 4-4, and then won the first three points off Courier's next service.

But Chang could not put him away.

Bowlers to celebrate Israel's 50th with major int'l youth tourney

By HEATHER CHAIT

Typically, the older generation does not encourage nor welcome youths into their set ways - but then there is lawn bowls.

Once regarded as a staid game of old men, world bowls is now being invigorated by a burst of energy and support from young players.

Israel is not lagging behind; during the week of May 4-9 a mini-international youth tournament, the first of its kind worldwide, will be held at the Ra'anana and Ramat Gan clubs.

Teams from England, Wales, Scotland and South Africa will be participating. Many of the British players having already represented their country at the seniors level.

Playing for Israel will be Yair Lieberthal, 24, Assaf Iron, 22, Michael Stange, 22, Yair Bekier,

21, Amir Yaron, 21, Roy Jennings, 20, and Boaz Marcus, 20.

Lieberthal, Yaron, Bekier and Marcus all represented Israel in last year's Maccabiah and Lieberthal gained his full international colors against the visiting World Champions England in 1996.

This is not the first taste of the international scene for these players. In 1993 the youth team played with a visiting Scottish team, then the World Champions. In 1994 a tour to Scotland followed and in 1995 and 1996 the team drew 1-1 against an Irish Youth side first in Israel and then in Ireland.

The tour will open with a "50th Anniversary" pairs tournament at Ramat Gan on May 4-5 where 16 pairs will compete in a four-section Round-Robin competition to qualify for the final playoff on May 5 at 16:30.

The main attraction of the program will be the inter-national round-robin tournament at Ra'anana from May 7-9. The competition will comprise singles, pairs and triples.

Lieberthal will be filling the singles slot with Jennings and Iron in the pairs. Bekier will be skipping the triples for Stange and Marcus.

Ivor Wolf is the team manager with Yaron the reserve.

Giving his stamp of approval to the tournament is World Bowls President, Gerald Turner of South Africa, who will be present and hopes to incorporate the event into the world bowls calendar. Also visiting will be John Darling, President of the Scottish Bowling Association and of the British Isles Council and leading bowls journalist and broadcaster, Gordon Dunwoody.

SPORTS

in brief

Angry fans force ref to flee in helicopter

RIMINI, Italy (Reuters) - An Italian referee had to flee a stadium by helicopter at the weekend after enraged fans attacked him as he left on foot, ANSA news agency said yesterday.

Antonio Manari had sent off three Rimini players in Sunday's Serie C derby against Castel San Pietro, which ended 1-1.

As he tried to leave the ground in this northern Italian resort, fans hurled stones and insults at him, forcing him to retreat. Police dispersed the fans but many waited outside for Manari to leave.

The referee eventually flew out in a helicopter provided by Italy's finance police, the Guardia di Finanza.

French crowds break 30,000 barrier

PARIS (Reuters) - French crowd records tumbled again at the weekend, with the match average breaking the 30,000 mark.

The penultimate round of matches in the first division saw a total of 278,000 spectators at nine matches, an average just above 30,000.

The previous match-average record of 26,500 was set two weekends ago when a 57,000 crowd at Marseille's Velodrome ground also broke the record for a league match between two French teams.

Referee at center of controversy after key Juventus win

ROME (AP) - Much of Italy agreed yesterday on two things. Juventus will capture the Serie A title, again. And the club benefited from favorable refereeing, again.

All the major newspapers had front-page stories on the game, with headlines using words like "scandal" or "gift," while several politicians entered the fray with their views.

"While Juventus celebrates a 25th title, cries of shame arise to condemn another referee that helped (Marcello) Lippi's team," respected daily *Gazzetta dello Sport* said in a front-page column.

"This will not go down in history as a clean championship."

The controversy follows Sunday's showdown at Turin, where league leaders Juventus beat second-placed Inter Milan 1-0, opening a four-point lead with three games left.

It was the latest in a series of questionable referee decisions that have helped Juventus this season.

In a pivotal 60-second span of the second half on Sunday, referee Piero Ceccarini failed to blow for a clear foul on Inter Milan star Ronaldo and then, with action continuing, awarded a penalty to Juve's Alessandro Del Piero at the other end.

"He is the only person in the world who did not see the foul on Ronaldo," Inter coach Luigi Simoni said of Ceccarini.

Two-time FIFA world player of the year Ronaldo was disconsolate. "I feel robbed. This is a real shame. They can fine me if they want, but you can't be silent in the face of things like this," said the Brazilian, who was fined by the league earlier this season for criticizing referees.

"Soccer is happiness if you play 11 against 11. But soccer is sadness when it is 11 against 12."

Ronaldo and Inter Milan's owner were reported yesterday to the league's disciplinary committee for comments critical of the referee. Both men, as well as the club, face sanctions.

E. German swimmer says her voice deepened after jab

BERLIN (Reuters) - A former East German swimmer told a Berlin court yesterday that her voice deepened after she received an injection while competing for the communist state.

"After a competition in 1977, neighbours and friends asked me what had happened to my voice," Kerstin Olm said while testifying in the trial against six former East German sports officials.

The 35-year-old Olm, who used to compete under her maiden

name of Schur, said she was given an injection before that competition and two others.

She said she also took "little, blue pills" but insisted she did not know whether the injections or the pills contained banned substances.

Another former East German swimmer, Jane Lang, had testified earlier yesterday, saying she was given blue and pink pills. She did not elaborate.

Former world record holder Christiane Knacke-Sommer told

the court last week how she developed body hair and noticed her voice deepen after being regularly doped from the age of 15.

Knacke-Sommer, the first athlete to testify in the trial, supported prosecution claims that young East German athletes were systematically doped.

"We were told the drugs were supportive measures which would allow us to endure training more easily," Knacke-Sommer, now 36, told the court, adding that she and

her fellow swimmers were aware of side effects.

"When, at 15 or 16 years old you suddenly have a deep voice, need to shave your legs and look fatened up then naturally you talk to one another about it," she said.

Those who refused such treatment were not allowed to train anymore, she said.

The six officials on trial - four swimming coaches and two doctors - are accused of causing bodily harm by giving female swim-

mers performance-enhancing steroids between 1975 and 1989.

If convicted, coaches Rolf Glaeser, Volker Frischke, Dieter Lindemann and Dieter Krause, and doctors Dieter Binus and Bernd Pansold, could face several years in jail.

The trial, the first to put East Germany's doping policy under the microscope, opened amid international media attention last month. It is scheduled to last until at least July.

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Talking trash

Bulls' vulnerability is 'just conversation': Just ask Michael Jordan

CHICAGO (AP) — They awoke to find one newspaper describing them as vulnerable and distracted. The other one had them distracted and vulnerable.

Or maybe it was the other way around.

"I'm pretty sure that's what people have been writing," Michael Jordan said Sunday night. "Some teams probably feel that way too."

"But until they actually come in and do it," he added, "it's just conversation."

And that's all a young Nets squad could take back to New Jersey after spending the weekend in Chicago: conversation. They played the aging, vulnerable Bulls, soon-to-be-blow-to-bits Bulls twice in three days in the opening round of the NBA playoffs. They chased the defending champions into overtime in the first game and close to the buzzer in the second. They still left town down 2-0 in the best-of-5 series, mulling about coulda, woulda, shoulda.

"I got so frustrated with Michael at one point," New Jersey's Jason Williams said. "I told him, 'We're just one or two players away from kicking your behinds.'"

So is everybody else — assuming Jordan is one of those players. But with his next breath, Williams conceded he didn't stick around long enough to hear Jordan's comeback. He looked out over a room full of reporters and saw them trying to imagine what it would have been.

There are dozens of skeptics at the start of each Bulls run, fewer as each round is peeled back, none by the finish. Williams may have sensed the shrinking process beginning.

"All you people think we're just warming up the Bulls for the next round," Williams said. "I don't see that. They are not going to walk over us. We still think we can come back and make a series of this."

Every team that has played the Bulls early in the postseason during this extended run has tried to tell itself the same thing. Last year, that team was Washington, with Chris Webber and Juwan Howard splitting the vocals. They said close wasn't good enough, but close was all they got.

In a strange way, Chicago's less-than-impressive start to the postseason lulls the rest of the

league into a false sense of security. This is a team that thrives on distractions. People see the close scores, they remember the Bulls stumbling at the close of the regular season, then they read the headlines about owner Jerry Reinsdorf and his henchman Jerry Krause maneuvering to clear the decks of Scottie Pippen.

And then they conclude this time the Bulls — aging, vulnerable and distracted — must be done. But that conclusion, like the reports Sunday that Krause's handpicked successor to Jackson — Iowa State coach Tim Floyd — was already hiring a staff, turns out to be premature.

When asked about the mess, Jackson replied simply, "That doesn't have anything to do with what we're doing now." Jordan, too, admitted having read the newspapers. All along, he had said the only coach he would play for next season is Jackson. Then last week Jordan softened his position to say he might play for any number of coaches. He was asked Sunday night if Floyd was included in that group.

"It hasn't happened yet, so I'm not thinking about it," Jordan said. "I'm thinking about playing for Phil and finishing this year."

Of all the skills Jordan is celebrated for, none may be more impressive than his ability to handle distractions. Already this season, he has had to overcome Dennis Rodman's indifference, outlast Pippen's fits and his promise never to play for the Bulls again and ignore Krause's repeated provocations — all the while avoiding any run-ins with Reinsdorf.

By comparison, mopping up the Nets on Sunday night must have seemed simple. The Bulls rolled out to a 21-point lead in the second half and his job was making sure the collapse wasn't total.

He turned out to be the only Chicago player with a basket over the final 7½ minutes, scoring eight of the Bulls' final 11 points and finishing with 32. "You learn to deal with certain situations and things that we really can't control. We just push it aside. But you never know," Jordan said, "when the next curve ball is coming."

Jordan's ease at crunchtime makes it seem like he could go on forever. He insists that isn't so. Still, you bet against him at your own risk. (AP)

MY CALL

By JIM LITKE

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Jordan's ease at crunchtime makes it seem like he could go on forever. He insists that isn't so. Still, you bet against him at your own risk. (AP)

Castilla takes HR lead with pair

Maddux pounded in Rockies' win; Sele wins 5th for Rangers

ATLANTA (AP) — Vinny Castilla homered twice to take over the major league lead with 11, and the Colorado Rockies took a six-run lead against Greg Maddux in a 7-6 win Sunday over the Atlanta Braves.

Castilla was 4-for-4 with five RBIs, hitting a two-run double off Maddux in the four-run first, a two-run homer in the third and a solo homer in the eighth off Mike Cather. Castilla, who raised his average to .323, leads the NL with 32 RBIs.

Maddux (2-2) was pounded for six runs and 10 hits in five innings. It was the most runs and hits he had allowed in 60 starts.

Maddux had gone 217 starts since June 30, 1991, without allowing as many as four runs in the first inning.

Colorado, which has won five straight at Turner Field, completed a two-game sweep. The Rockies are 7-5 on the road but just 3-10 at Coors Field.

Marlins 12, Diamondbacks 6

Charles Johnson hit two long homers to help rookie Eric Ludwick gain his first NL victory.

Cliff Floyd hit a three-run homer, his seventh, and matched his career high with four RBIs. Gary Sheffield hit a two-run shot for host Florida, which overcame a 4-2, fifth-inning deficit.

Florida's four homers tied a team record. But Marlins pitchers also walked 11, tying a club mark.

Ludwick (1-2), making his first start since April 8 when he sustained a stress fracture in his back, allowed four runs — three earned — and six hits in five innings.

Astros 15, Expos 0

Moises Alou capped a productive weekend against host Montreal with a homer and five more RBIs.

Alou, who had five RBIs on Friday night against one of his former teams, went 3-for-6 and scored three runs as the Astros completed a three-game sweep.

Ludwick (1-2), making his first start since April 8 when he sustained a stress fracture in his back, allowed four runs — three earned — and six hits in five innings.

Sean Bergman (2-1) and Trevor Miller combined on a five-hitter. Bergman allowed four hits in six shutout innings.

Miller pitched three innings for his first save.

Richard Hidalgo had four RBIs and Sean Berry went 4-for-5 and scored four times for the Astros.

The Expos committed five errors, one shy of the team record. Derek Bell homered in the first off Trey Moore (1-3), and Houston scored four runs in the third on three consecutive two-out hits.

Phillies 9, Cardinals 3

Curt Schilling struck out 13 and Mike Lieberthal homered and drove in four runs for host Philadelphia.

Schilling (3-2) fanned Mark McGwire three times and increased his major-league leading strikeout total to 65 for the Phillies.

Schilling, who had lost his last two starts, allowed three runs and eight hits in eight innings. It was his fourth double-digit strikeout game this season.

The Cardinals have lost four of their last five.

Lieberthal's two-run homer in the sixth came off Todd Stottlemyre (3-1) after the Cardinals had tied it 3-3 in the top of the inning.

Mets — Reds (ppd, rain)

Host New York's game against Cincinnati was rained out and will be made up as part of a double-header on May 19.

Pirates 6, Padres 0

Jon Lieber allowed three hits in eight-plus innings and Doug Strange's RBI single snapped a string of 20 scoreless innings for the Pirates.

The victory gave the Avalanche a 2-1 lead in the best-of-7 Western Conference quarter-final.

Claude Lemieux's second goal of the game, at 2:14 of the third period, gave the Avalanche what appeared to be an insurmountable 4-2 lead. But the Oilers bunted back with two goals in a 1:21 span to tie the game midway through the period.

Bill Guerin drilled a shot past goaltender Patrick Roy at 11:11 and Oilers captain Kelly Buchberger tied the game 4-4 at 12:32.

Capitals 3, Bruins 2 (OT)

Joe Juneau scored after 26:31 of overtime and Olaf Kolzig stopped 52 shots as visiting Washington took a 2-1 lead in their best-of-7 playoff series.

The Capitals had lost seven consecutive overtime playoff games, dating back to a 1991 first-round victory over the New York Rangers. Neither Boston nor Washington has won a playoff series since 1994.

Sharks 4, Stars 1

John MacLean had a goal and two assists as the eighth-seeded San Jose Sharks rebounded to win at home after losing the first two games of their playoff series.

(Tverdokh, Khabibulin, 2:19 (pp), S. Phoenix, Roenick 4 (Tverdokh), 12:47, Goles-Detroit, Osgood, Phoenix, Khabibulin, 16:20)

Dallas 1, 0-4-1
First Period: Dallas, Zubov 1 (Field, Verbeek), 4:16 (pp), Second Period: San Jose, MacLean 1 (Korczuk, Riccio), 5:08, San Jose, Nolan 2 (MacLean, Houder), 6:13 (pp), Third Period: San Jose, Lafraie 1 (Nichols, MacLean), 1:04 (pp), 5: San Jose, Raffae 1 (MacLean, Riccio), 15:50 (pp), Goles-Dallas, Bellor, Fernandez, San Jose, Vernon, A-17, 4:33

Colorado 2, 1-1-5
First Period: Colorado, Deshaies 1 (Forsberg, Crookshank), 14:19 (pp), Second Period: San Jose, Lafraie 1 (Nichols, MacLean), 1:04 (pp), 5: San Jose, Raffae 1 (MacLean, Riccio), 15:50 (pp), Goles-Colorado, Roy, Edmonton, Joseph, A-17, 0:08



TURNING TWO — Astros 2B Craig Biggio jumps over Expos' Mark Grudzielanek to complete the first-inning double play. Houston routed Montreal 15-0.

visiting Pittsburgh.

The Pirates became the first team to shut out the Padres and win a series against San Diego this year, taking two of three.

Pittsburgh was held scoreless in the final 14 innings of Saturday night's 16-inning game, won 4-3 by the Padres.

Al Martin hit a three-run homer off reliever Don Weigert with two outs in the ninth, and Tony Womack went 3-for-5 for the Pirates.

Lieber (1-3) had lost three straight starts before cooling off the Padres. He struck out eight and walked two.

Kevin Brown (2-2) allowed three runs and 10 hits in eight innings.

Dodgers 4, Cubs 3 (12)

Todd Zeile hit a two-out RBI single in the bottom of the 12th inning and the Dodgers' bullpen pitched five more scoreless innings.

Eric Young opened the 12th with a single off Marc Fisirotu (0-1) and Roger Cedeno sacrificed. After Raul Mondesi struck out, Zeile grounded a 3-2 pitch through the middle.

Rookie Matt Luke hit his first major league homer as the Dodgers completed their first

three-game sweep of the Cubs since 1992, and their first over Chicago at Dodger Stadium since 1991.

Brad Clontz (1-0) got his first victory as a Dodger by pitching the 12th.

Clontz has not allowed a run in 8½ innings, and the Dodgers' bullpen has now pitched 29½ consecutive scoreless innings.

Giants 8, Brewers 7

Stan Javier and Charlie Hayes hit solo homers off Doug Jones in the bottom of the ninth, and Barry Bonds hit a grand slam for the Giants.

Bonds drove in five runs for San Francisco, which won its 12th straight game, 8-7.

San Francisco had lost seven of nine coming in.

With the Giants leading 7-6, Javier connected off Jones (1-1), who blew a save for the second time in 10 chances. After Rich Aurilia flied out, Hayes hit for Steve Reed (1-0) and homered over the left-field wall.

Jose Valentin and Marquis Grissom homered in a six-run third for Milwaukee.

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NATIONAL LEAGUE	
BATTING—Bichette, Colorado, .404; DeBell, Houston, .396; Allensworth, Pittsburgh, .395; DeShields, St. Louis, .390; Chones, Atlanta, .387; LWalker, Colorado, .373; Kierulff, Pittsburgh, .369.	
RUNS—Biggio, Houston, 27; Chones, Atlanta, 26; Floyd, Florida, 22; DeBell, Houston, 22; Buntz, Milwaukee, 21; Walker, Colorado, 21; Bichette, Colorado, 21; RFI—Castilla, Colorado, 32; McGwire, St. Louis, 30; Chones, Atlanta, 27; Piazza, Los Angeles, 24; DeBell, Houston, 23; Alou, Houston, 23; Galaraga, Atlanta, 23.	
HITS—Bichette, Colorado, 44; DeShields, St. Louis, 43; DeBell, Houston, 36; Vina, Milwaukee, 34; Lansing, Colorado, 33; Biggio, Houston, 33; Castilla, Colorado, 32; Soza, Chicago, 32.	
HOME RUNS—Castilla, Colorado, 11; McGwire, St. Louis, 10; Chones, Atlanta, 9; Galaraga, Atlanta, 9; Piazza, Los Angeles, 8; Floyd, Florida, 7; Buntz, Milwaukee, 7; HROdriguez, Chicago, 7; Camilli, San Diego, 7; Buntz, Colorado, 7.	
STOLEN BASES—Eligio, Houston, 12; Symes, Cincinnati, 9; EYoung, Los Angeles, 7; Fierstien, Florida, 6; JValentin, Milwaukee, 6; DeBell, Houston, 6; Bagwell, Houston, 6; McPhee, New York, 6; DeShields, St. Louis, 6; Dierker, Arizona, 6.	
PITCHING (9 Decisions)—Hampton, Houston, 4-0, 1.000, 3.00; Glatz, Atlanta, 3-0, 1.000, 1.00; Kari, Milwaukee, 3-0, 1.000, 3.58; Wandell, New York, 3-0, 1.000, 6.75; 13 are tied with 75.	
STRIKEOUTS—Schilling, Philadelphia, 65; Milwood, Atlanta, 37; Stittgen, St. Louis, 37; RMarinez, Los Angeles, 37; KBrown, San Diego, 36; Hernandez, Florida, 32; Gmader, Atlanta, 31.	
SAVES—Chones, Milwaukee, 8; Beck, Chicago, 7; Shaw, Cincinnati, 7; Hoffman, San Diego, 6; Wohlers, Atlanta, 5; 7 are tied with 5.	

AMERICAN LEAGUE	
BATTING—Rodriguez, Texas, .402; RMorris, Kansas City, .413; TGoodwin, Texas, .403; McLemore, Texas, .398; JGonzalez, Texas, .389; Segui, Seattle, .380; Curtis, New York, .364; Gil, Seattle, .364.	
RUNS—McLemore, Texas, 22; ARodriguez, Seattle, 21; Offman, Kansas City, 20; JGonzalez, Texas, 20; Jeter, New York, 19; Rodriguez, Texas, 19; LWalker, Colorado, 19; JGonzalez, Texas, 19; Grier, Texas, 18; Loft, Cleveland, 18; Goodwin, Texas, 18.	
HITS—Bichette, Colorado, 44; DeShields, St. Louis, 43; DeBell, Houston, 36; Vina, Milwaukee, 34; Lansing, Colorado, 33; Biggio, Houston, 33; Castilla, Colorado, 32; Soza, Chicago, 32.	
HOME RUNS—Castilla, Colorado, 11; McGwire, St. Louis, 10; Chones, Atlanta, 9; Galaraga, Atlanta, 9; Piazza, Los Angeles, 8; Floyd, Florida, 7; Buntz, Milwaukee, 7; HROdriguez, Chicago, 7; Camilli, San Diego, 7; Buntz, Colorado, 7.	
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NATIONAL LEAGUE	
Team	W L Pct GB
Atlanta	13 9 .591
New York	13 8 .619
Philadelphia	11 11 .500
Florida	8 16 .333
Montreal	7 16 .304
Central Division	
St. Louis	15 8 .652
Brewer	14 10 .583
St. Louis	10 10 .500
Chicago	12 12 .500
Pittsburgh	11 13 .458
Cincinnati	10 13 .435
West Division	
San Diego	17 6 .739
Los Angeles	12 11 .522
San Francisco	12 12 .500
Colorado	10 15 .400
Arizona	7 18 .286

AMERICAN LEAGUE	
Team	W L Pct GB
New York	17 7 .708
Boston	16 8 .667
Baltimore	16 8 .667
Tampa Bay	11 13 .458
Toronto	9 15 .375
Central Division	
Cleveland	13 9 .591
Minnesota	10 12 .455
Kansas City	10 14 .417
Chicago	8 16 .333
Detroit	4 20 .167
West Division	
Los Angeles	17 6 .739
Los Angeles	12 11 .522
San Francisco	12 12 .500
Colorado	10 15 .400
Arizona	7 18 .286

Golf's world rankings: Top 20

LONDON (Reuters) — Leading world golf rankings after week ending April 16.

1. Ernie Els, South Africa 12.17
2. Tiger Woods, US, 11.86
3. Greg Norman, Australia, 10.04
4. Davis Love III, US, 9.96
5. Colin Montgomerie, Britain, 8.81
6. Justin Leonard, US, 8.79
7. David Duval, US, 8.38
8. Phil Mickelson, US, 8.31
9. Nick Price, Zimbabwe, 8.04
10. Tom Lehman, US, 7.81
11. "Jumbo" Ozaki, Japan, 7.79
12. Mark O'Meara, US, 7.52
13. Lee Westwood, Britain, 6.47
14. Vijay Singh, Fiji, 6.39
15. Scott Hoch, US, 5.73
16. Mark Calaverchia, US, 5.64
17. Jim Furyk, US, 5.59
18. Fred Couples, US, 5.51
19. Tom Watson, US, 5.50
20. Jesper Parnevik, Sweden, 5.27

shocked Detroit goaltender Chris Osgood with 7:13 to play as the Coyotes beat the Red Wings 3-2 Sunday to take a 2-1 lead in their Western Conference playoff series.

The defending Stanley Cup champions, who hadn't trailed in a playoff series since Colorado eliminated them 4-2 in the 1996 Western Conference finals, get their chance to even the series tonight before it returns to Detroit for Game 5 on Thursday.

Avalanche 5, Edmonton 4 (OT)

Joe Sakic's blast from the left circle at 15:25 of overtime lifted Colorado to a home win.

Bobby Carpenter gave the Devils a 1-0 lead 36 seconds into the second period. Laakkonen tied it with a power-play goal at 4:56 before setting up a power-play goal for Yashin in overtime.

Senators goaltender Damian Rhodes made 30 saves. Martin Brodeur made 20 for New Jersey.

Coyotes 3, Red Wings 2

Host Phoenix, its break-even regular season notwithstanding, is in contention to break out of the first round for the first time since 1987.

Rick Tocchet and Jeremy Roenick scored power-play goals early in the third period, and Roenick redirected the winner past

NHL Playoff Glance

FIRST ROUND (Best-of-7)

Sunday
Ottawa 2, New Jersey 1 (OT)
Ottawa leads series 2-1
Washington 3, Boston 2 (OT)
Washington leads series 2-1
Phoenix 2, Detroit 2
Phoenix leads series 2-1
San Jose 4, Dallas 1
Dallas leads series 2-1
Colorado 5, Edmonton 4 (OT)
Colorado leads series 2-1

Last night
Pittsburgh at Montreal (Series tied 1-1)
Philadelphia at Buffalo (Series tied 1-1)
St. Louis at Los Angeles (St. Louis leads series 2-0)

First Period: Detroit, Fedorov 4 (Yermakov, Lashin), 2:22, Detroit, Shestakov 1 (Rogov, Minonov), 13:11, Second Period: Phoenix, Roenick 1 (Tocchet, 4:00), Phoenix, Roenick 3 (Tocchet, 15:25) (pp), 4: Phoenix, Roenick 3

First Period: Dallas, Zubov 1 (Field, Verbeek), 4:16 (pp), Second Period: San Jose, MacLean 1 (Korczuk, Riccio), 5:08, San Jose, Nolan 2 (MacLean, Houder), 6:13 (pp), Third Period: San Jose, Lafraie 1 (Nichols, MacLean), 1:04 (pp), 5: San Jose, Raffae 1 (MacLean, Riccio), 15:50 (pp), Goles-Dallas, Bellor, Fernandez, San Jose, Vernon, A-17, 4:33

Colorado 2, 1-1-5
First Period: Colorado, Deshaies 1 (Forsberg, Crookshank), 14:19 (pp), Second Period: San Jose, Lafraie 1 (Nichols, MacLean), 1:04 (pp), 5: San Jose, Raffae 1 (MacLean, Riccio), 15:50 (pp), Goles-Colorado, Roy, Edmonton, Joseph, A-17, 0:08

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Oakland 12, Baltimore 4

Rickey Henderson hit his second career grand slam, his first since July 1991, and Jason Giambi drove in three runs as visiting Oakland saddled the Orioles with their eighth loss in 11 outings.

Tom Candiotti (2-3) allowed four runs — three earned — and five hits in seven innings for his second straight win on Sunday.

Doug Drabek (1-3) gave up five runs and seven hits in 2½ innings.

Rangers 11, Royals 4

Aaron Sele (5-0) became the first five-game winner in the majors and Juan Gonzalez homered twice and drove in four runs for visiting Texas.

Gonzalez, who drove in five runs on Saturday night, has 32 RBIs in April, two shy of Tino Martinez's record for the month, and 33 in all.

Sele (5-0) allowed four runs and eight hits in five-plus innings. Chris Haney (2-1) gave up six runs and eight hits in 5½ innings.

Twins 2, Mariners 0

Brad Radke (3-1) combined with Mike Trombley, Greg Swindell and Rick Aguilera on a six-hitter — visiting Minnesota's first shutout this year. Aguilera pitched the ninth for his fourth save.

Terry Steinbach and Marty Cordova drove in Minnesota's runs in the seventh off Jamie Moyer (1-3).

White Sox 5, Blue Jays 5 (tie)

CRITICS' CHOICE

REMEMBRANCE DAY

HELEN KAYE

Tel Aviv's Rabin Square is the setting for an evening of memorial songs and tributes with such performers as Yossi and Ehad Banai, Judith Ravitz, Rita, Gidi Gov, Eli Luzzon, Meital Trabelsi, and Barry Sakharoff. IA mayor Ronni Milo and Labor leader Ehud Barak will be there too. Tonight from 9:30 to 11.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

*** SCREAM 2 - This is the clever, bloody sequel to clever, bloody *Scream*. Both ironic horror movies were written by Kevin Williamson and directed by Wes Craven, and both assume a vast yet shallow pop-cultural sophistication on the part of their hip young audience. As should be clear from this description, the single most frightening element here is not all the slashing and gutting that take place as a matter of course. The cynicism that the film speaks to and promotes in its viewers is what's really scary. That said, the film is shrewd, the script consistently amusing and the suspense sustained to the very end. To protest the movie's knowingness seems a little out of place: it's like going to see a musical and then taking offense at all that singing. (Children under 16 not admitted: ID will be checked)

*** JACKIE BROWN - Bad boy pop-culture hero Quentin Tarantino's new film should come as a surprise both to the director's fans and his detractors. While there are plenty of his trademark elements at play here - the endless, braggart talk about guns, the far-fetched paperback plot (based on Elmore Leonard's novel *Rum Punch*) and the reliance on cranked-up Motown to create mood - the movie also ventures out onto richer and more mature emotional turf than one expects of the



Meital Trabelsi is one of the stars performing in an evening of memorial songs.

director, and the results are at times quite compelling. For all its funky trappings, *JB* is really a meditation on loneliness and the possibility of passionate middle-aged love. Tarantino finds a fascinating, quietly sexy set of leads in Pam Grier (former star of 1970s "blaxploitation" pictures) and one-time B-movie hero Robert Forster. Also with Samuel L. Jackson, Robert De Niro and Bridget Fonda. (Children under 17 not admitted without an adult)

TV

CHANNEL 1 (11)

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

8:00 Singing Box
8:30 Art Workshop
9:15 Science
10:00 Programs for the Very Young
11:00 English
12:00 French
12:30 Science and Technology
13:00 Geography
13:30 Animation
15:00 Pretty Butterfly

CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:30 Elie Lili and Zap 1
15:35 X Men
16:00 Sylvester the Cat
16:30 Zapp
16:58 A New Evening
17:34 Clozap
18:15 News in English
19:00 News

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Approp
19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS

19:30 News
20:00 Remembrance Day Ceremony
20:00 News (cont.)
20:30 Don't Give the World a Name
21:00 Remembrance Day Songs - special concert from Rabin Square in Tel Aviv, featuring Rita, Gidi Gov, Yossi Banai, Judith Ravitz and Barry Sakharoff
22:15 News
23:30 The Price is Right
00:00 Verse of the Day

CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's Programs
5:55 On the Edge of the Shell
6:00 Cartoons
6:43 Reshet Morning
9:00 Meetings
10:00 Pablo
11:00 A Woman in Search of Palestine
12:00 Ahlan Wassahlan
12:30 Enki Blyton Adventure Stories
13:00 My Secret Identity
13:30 Zombi
14:00 Home and Away
14:30 Junior News
15:00 Best Video Clips
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:30 Different Driving
17:00 Five with Rafi Reshet
17:30 Eleanor - local drama
18:00 My Big Brother - documentary about young brothers coming to terms with their older brother's death
19:00 Enan's Sacrifice
19:30 News and

JERUSALEM

SHADAR = 5618168 Sweet Hereafter 4 - The Thief 2
TEL AVIV
GLOBUS L.A. Confidential-Sphere - The Man in the Iron Mask 11:30 a.m., 2, 5 - Live
Flash-Kisses the Girls-The Boxer 11:30 a.m., 2, 5 - The Myth of Fingerprints-Hard Rain
11:30 a.m., 2, 5 G.G. HOD - 5 - 5228228 Hod L.A. Passage, Confidential-The Rainmaker 5 - Live Flash 5
Amistad 5 LEV = 5288228 Good Will Hunting 11 a.m., 1:45, 4:15 - Sweet Hereafter
11:30 a.m., 2:15, 5 - The End of Violence 11:30 a.m., 2 LEV AVIV Credit Card Reservations = 5418841
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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori LewisMac. TA
take 1-0
lead over
Jerusalem

By OFER RONEN-ABELS

Maccabi Tel Aviv took a 1-0 lead over Hapoel Jerusalem with a 70-61 victory in the best-of-five semi-final playoff series at Yad Eliahu last night.

Some 5,000 fans turned up expecting to see another tight encounter in what have often been a grudge games between these two teams. In the end, it turned out to be a stroll for the hosts.

Both coaches started with their strongest lineups which included Maccabi's Nadav Henefeld, Doron Sheffer, Oded Katash, Rashard Griffith and Randy White. Jerusalem opened with Adi Gordon, Papi Turgeman, Radisav Curic, Morti Daniel and Kenny Williams.

Maccabi took the lead from Henefeld and never looked like losing it throughout the first half, as two fouls for both Curic and Daniel early in the first half forced Jerusalem coach Eddy Birnbaum to drop the idea of muscling Maccabi inside the paint.

Jerusalem kept on fighting with Gordon showing a touch of his best form but White, with 10 points in the half, and some vital rebounds, kept Maccabi ahead, while both Katash and Sheffer had a quiet start. Jerusalem closed the gap and took the lead with three minutes left in the half when Daniel, who had just come in for Turgeman put Jerusalem 29-28 up when he sank a three-pointer.

After Henefeld missed a chance to equalize from a free throw, H. Waldman sent both teams to the dressing room with Jerusalem leading at 33-32.

In the second period, Maccabi came out determined not to lose the game and when they put their foot on the gas for a short time early on, they had a 10-0 spurt led by Borko Radovic who restarted instead of the tired White.

From that point it looked very difficult for Hapoel, as Kenny Williams was limited to only eight points in the game, while Curic's contribution was cut to just 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Jerusalem narrowed Maccabi's lead to six with eight minutes left, but the yellow machine, through their longer bench never lost control until the final buzzer.

Manchester
United keep
title hopes
alive

LONDON (Reuters) — Manchester United maintained their slim hopes of retaining the English premier league title last night with a 3-0 victory over Crystal Palace, who were relegated.

United moved one point behind leaders Arsenal, with just two games to play. Arsenal still have four matches left and are favorites to take the championship.

Goals from Paul Scholes in the sixth minute, Nicky Butt in the 22nd and Andy Cole in the 84th ensured United's victory over a Palace side who played as though they were already down.

Palace still have three games to play but cannot climb out of the bottom three relegation zone.

United could have had a hatful of goals in the first half as the Palace defence was torn apart, but the London club recovered somewhat in the second half.

United's Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, who has missed several games with an injured hamstring, again suffered and was not able to take any goal kicks.

Home edge shifts to T-wolves, Knick

NEW YORK (AP) — The home-court advantage now belongs to two more teams that didn't have it a few days ago — the Minnesota Timberwolves and New York Knicks.

The Wolves and Knicks, seeded seventh in their respective conferences, both earned victories Sunday that evened their best-of-5, first-round playoff series at 1-1.

That makes four teams who managed to win one road game over the first four days of the playoffs to head back to their own arenas with a newfound homecourt advantage awaiting them.

"Oh yeah, we can win the series," Minnesota's Kevin Garnett said moments after the Timberwolves won a playoff game for the first time in franchise history, 98-93 over the Seattle SuperSonics.

Garnett wasn't the only player whose optimism did a 180-degree turn following a surprise victory. The Knicks, for instance, were acting more giddy than they had all season after they defeated the Miami Heat 96-86 (reported in yesterday's edition).

"I think it's a confident, kind of cocky thing," New York forward Terry Cummings said. "We can play and we can win in the playoffs. This playoff series is just starting."

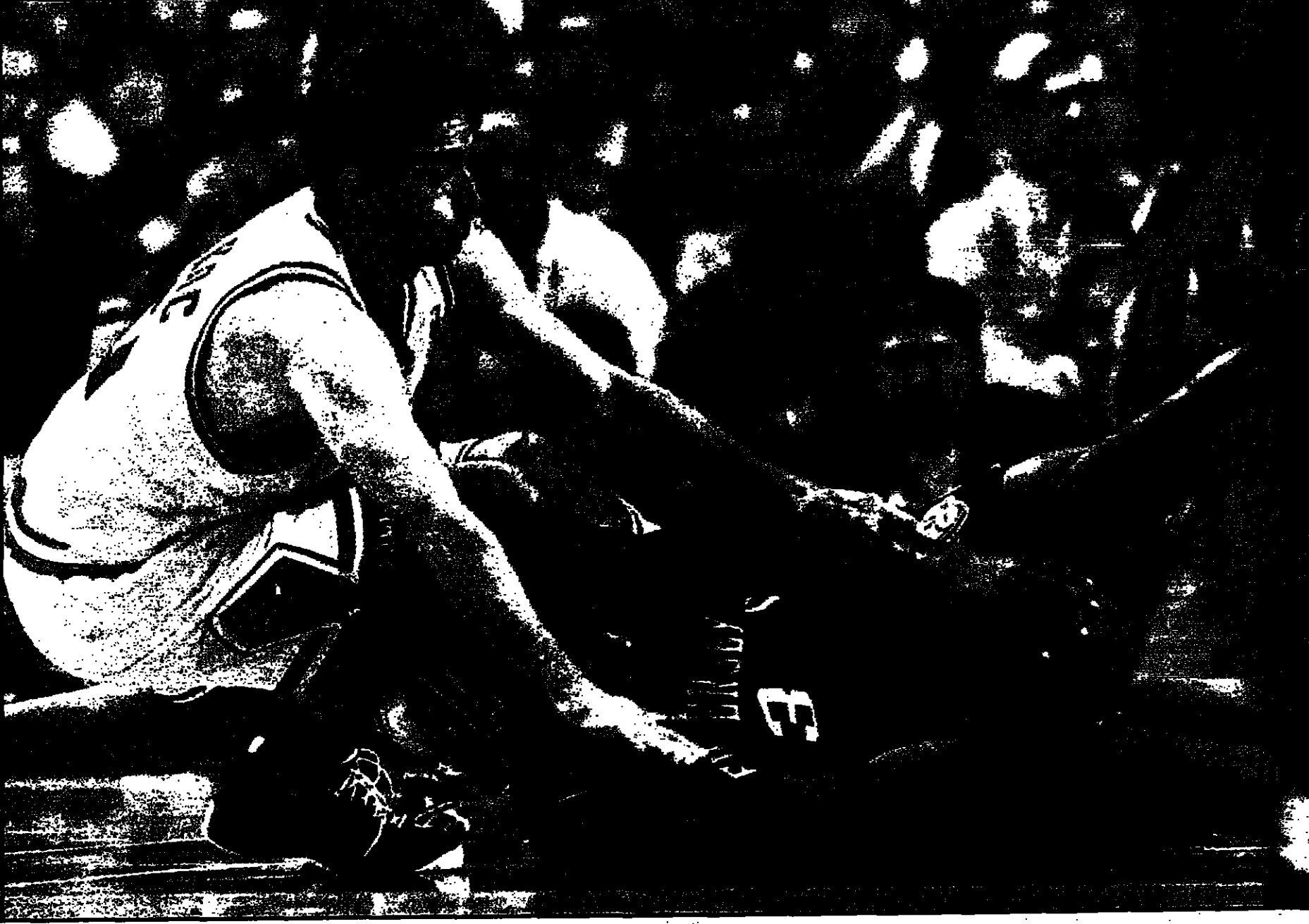
T-wolves 98, SuperSonics 93
Led by Stephen Marbury's 25 points, the underdog Wolves bounced back from a 25-point loss in Game 1 and stunned the Sonics by outplaying them throughout — and especially in the final three minutes.

Gary Payton's five-foot hook with 15.2 seconds to go cut Seattle's deficit to 92-90, but Payton then committed his sixth foul while trying to steal the ball from Marbury.

He made two free throws with 13.8 seconds left, giving the Wolves a 94-90 lead, and Sam Mitchell, the only remaining member of the original Timberwolves franchise that entered the NBA nine years ago, sealed the win on two free throws with 8.8 seconds left to give the Wolves a 96-91 advantage.

The Wolves were ecstatic after winning.

"Yesterday, they were calling us



FLOORED — Chicago's Toni Kukoc (1) scrambles for a loose ball with Nets' Kendall Gill in fourth-quarter action. The Bulls won 96-91.

cupcakes, they were calling us soft," Marbury said. "It was unbelievable. Our young manhood was being tested."

Vin Baker, Seattle's leading scorer with 25 points in Game 1, was held to eight points.

The Wolves got 21 points from Terry Porter, a surprise starter, and a playoff career-high 18 from Mitchell. Garnett added 15. Payton scored 32 points for Seattle before fouling out.

Bulls 96, Nets 91
Host Chicago nearly blew a 21-point, second-half lead, but the injured and ailing Nets could never quite make it all the way back.

Sherman Douglas hit a 3-pointer to make it 94-91 late in the fourth, but Scottie Pippen then made two free throws with 14 seconds left as the Bulls, despite 7-of-13 free-

throw shooting in the fourth, hung on.

"We know we can play with these guys," New Jersey's Jayson Williams said, going again with a broken thumb and grabbing 11 rebounds. "We feel good about our chances at home. We don't feel good about losing."

The Bulls, who can complete the series sweep tomorrow, got 32 points from Michael Jordan, 19 from Toni Kukoc and 16 rebounds from Dennis Rodman.

New Jersey's top scorers — Keith Van Horn and Sam Cassell, who played sparingly in Game 1 because of illness and injury — were not factors again. In addition, Chris Gatling was slowed by the flu.

Lakers 108, Trail Blazers 99
Rick Fox and Eddie Jones had

playoff career-highs of 24 and 21 points, respectively. Shaquille O'Neal had 19 points and nine rebounds and Robert Horry added 15 points for the hosts.

The Lakers went ahead for good

in the final minute of the second quarter and outscored the Blazers 35-23 in the third quarter to take an 89-75 lead into the final period. Rider scored six straight points to cut the Los Angeles lead to seven

points with 3:35 remaining, but that was as close as the Blazers would get. "I believe in miracles," Isaiah Rider said. "Down two games to none, we need a miracle."

NBA Playoff
FIRST ROUND
(Best-of-5)

Sunday
New York 96, Miami 88
(Series tied 1-1)
L.A. Lakers 108, Portland 99
(Lakers lead series 2-0)
Chicago 96, New Jersey 91
(Chicago leads series 2-0)
Minnesota 98, Seattle 93
(Series tied 1-1)

Last night
Indiana leads series 2-0
Phoenix at San Antonio
(Series tied 1-1)

Police exile Hap. Beit She'an to Haifa

By ORI LEWIS

Despite fierce protests from Hapoel Beit She'an and club supporters, this Saturday's crucial National League soccer clash against Bnei Yehuda will not take place at their home ground for security reasons.

The police yesterday decided to relocate the game from Beit She'an's tiny ground for fear of overcrowding in what is to be the featured match of the penultimate round of this season's league action.

The match could go a long way towards determining the fate of both clubs, with Beit She'an again fighting to avoid relegation and Bnei Yehuda for a second straight championship.

The Beit She'an municipal ground is currently undergoing major build-

ing work and according to the police can only hold up to 2,000 spectators. As the match will generate much interest, particularly due to the large following of Bnei Yehuda, it has been moved to Haifa's Kiryat Eliezer ground, which can hold 18,000 spectators.

"Because of the building work and the ground's capacity, we expect many spectators to be locked out, we fear that this could lead to disastrous consequences," said police commander Dov Shechter.

As expected, the decision has enraged both Beit She'an and Hapoel Tel Aviv.

Beit She'an, because they feel that their home-ground advantage, and the chance of gaining three vital points has been greatly diminished. "Our advantage has been taken away," said club spokesman Yossi

Goren. "We had hoped until the last minute that we might be able to hold the game at our home ground. In 1998, when Israel can launch satellites into orbit, we had hoped we would be allowed to stage this game at home," he lamented.

Hapoel Tel Aviv, who host Hapoel Petah Tikva on Saturday, feel that Beit She'an are given an unfair advantage. "The police's job is to maintain law and order, they should only allow the right number of spectators into the ground and allow the game to go ahead as planned," an angry Moshe Teomim, owner of Hapoel Tel Aviv, told Israel Radio yesterday.

The game is scheduled to kick off at Haifa's Kiryat Eliezer ground at 17:45 on Saturday, following Maccabi Haifa's home fixture against Ironi Rishon LeZion.

O'Sullivan-White thriller in prospect

SHEFFIELD (Reuters) — Ronnie O'Sullivan thrashed fellow Briton Alan McManus 13-4 yesterday to set up an appetizing snooker world championship quarter-final with Jimmy White.

Resuming 7-1 ahead, O'Sullivan lost the opening frame but claimed five of the next seven with typical rapid-fire breaks of 94, 91 and 89.

McManus could do little to change the course of the game as O'Sullivan ended the session with a 12-4 lead.

He finished the second round match in style with a superb 134 clearance to claim victory just eight minutes into the final session.

In-form compatriot White now stands between O'Sullivan and his second appearance in the semifinals.

Although the pair have faced each other many times, it will be their first encounter at the famous Crucible Theatre. O'Sullivan shrugged aside suggestions that his friendship with White could affect his performance. "It's just

another match to me," he insisted. "It's going to be a tough match, but matches in the quarter-finals of the world championship are tough."

Matthew Stevens faces a quarter-final meeting with defending champion and fellow Briton Ken Doherty after beating Mark King 13-9.

Stevens, ranked 53 in the world, finally managed to break clear of King after an evenly contested first two sessions.

Resuming at 8-8, Stevens won five out of six frames to claim victory and move within sight of his third semi-final of the season.

Briton Peter Ebdon's return to form continued as he dismissed Fergal O'Brien of Ireland 13-5 for a place in the last-8.

O'Brien, trailing 12-4, recovered from 44-17 down to win the opening frame of the final session with a break of 67. But it was only a temporary reprieve as Ebdon took the following frame and the match with a superb 124 break.

Yugoslavia XV too powerful for Israel

By JOEL GORDIN

The national rugby team went down 30-6 to Yugoslavia in Belgrade at the weekend, thus losing its second game of the Silver Cup competition for second-string rugby nations.

The first half was evenly-balanced. The Israeli forwards held their own, with Hapoel Netanya lock Avshalom Eliasov and ASA Tel Aviv flanker Itzik Azriel showing good form in the line-outs and loose scrums. At half time, Israel led 6-3,

their points coming from two penalties by new, young fly-half Pablo Cabral from Beersheba. Yugoslavia also kicked a penalty.

After the interval, however, the heavier Yugoslav forwards took complete command. They gave their backline maximum possession and their strong running wings crossed Israel's line four times. Two of the tries were converted and the they kicked another penalty.

In the Silver Cup, Israel is matched against Switzerland, Yugoslavia,

Latvia and Lithuania. Each team will play each other only once. In its first game Israel was beaten 34-3 by Switzerland at Wingate Institute.

Israel is scheduled to meet Lithuania and Latvia towards the end of May and the beginning of June. Both will be away games for the Israelis.

A national under-17 team leaves for Lyon, France tomorrow to take part in a five-day contest together with 16 cadet teams from the region. The team will be managed by Ronen Kalai and coached by Alan Krost.

Don't ask
Korda if he
wants to be
No. 1

PRAGUE (Reuters) — Petr Korda has just one hang-up. He hates being asked if he wants to be world No. 1.

"That question is starting to tire me. I hear it everywhere I go," said the 30-year-old world No. 2 who is competing in the Czech Open in Prague this week.

Since winning the Australian Open earlier this year, Korda has been edged closer to a position only one other Czech man, Ivan Lendl, has occupied in the Open era — world No. 1.

Yet each time he has neared the summit of men's tennis, Korda, referred to as the human toothbrush for his wiry body and bristly hair, has failed to take the final step.

His latest stumble came last week at the Monte Carlo Open when Pete Sampras easily put the top spot in the ATP rankings within the Czech's reach with an appearance in the final.

But just as in Key Biscayne, Indian Wells and Antwerp, Korda fell short.

"I am very competitive. When I was No. 10 I wanted to be No. 9. Maybe I'll never make it to No. 1 but maybe I will be successful," he said yesterday.

"On the other hand, I must admit that it would really be nice to be No. 1. Only Lendl has done this," Lendl, Korda's childhood hero, held the No. 1 spot for a record 270 weeks.

Korda, who trails Sampras by 133 points, has another chance to reach No. 1 this week in his hometown of Prague.

For Korda to get there Sampras must lose early in a clay court event in Atlanta while Korda needs to not only win the Czech Open but also gain enough bonus points by beating ranked players to leapfrog the American.

"This is the hardest tournament for me to play in, here at home in Prague," he said of the added pressure from the thousands of Czechs who expect him to win. "I can only promise that on the court I will give 100 percent."

IOC medical chief
pushes for pot ban

SYDNEY (AP) — The IOC's top medical official said yesterday that marijuana should be added to the organization's list of banned drugs, even though it is not considered a performance-enhancing substance.

The International Olympic Committee is moving to ban so-called recreational drugs following the Canadian snowboarder Ross Perot's admission that he used marijuana.

The IOC stripped Rebagliati of his gold medal in the men's giant slalom after he tested positive for cannabis. But the medal was reinstated by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, which ruled there was no clear provision for marijuana testing at the games.

IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch set up a four-member task force to study the issue, and recommendations are due to be made to the executive board today.

One member of the task force, IOC vice president Dick Pound of Canada, has expressed opposition to putting

marijuana on the banned list. But Prince Alexandre de Merode, chairman of the IOC medical commission, said he expects the executive board will agree with his view that marijuana should be banned.

"I believe the IOC as a principle likes to be associated with the fight against drugs, including social drugs," he said.

De Merode said marijuana should be banned even though it does not act as a performance-enhancer like steroids.

"It's basically not performance-enhancing, but marijuana can destroy the performance," he said. "It can be dangerous. It can give you the impression that you are indestructible."

Any athlete testing positive for marijuana during future Olympics should be disqualified just like anyone caught using steroids, De Merode said.

De Merode said heroin and cocaine are already on the banned list, while drugs such as ecstasy and hallucinogenic mushrooms could be added.

Australian teams endure 43
spot kicks in penalty shootout

BRISBANE (AP) — Two semi-professional soccer teams faced the agony of a penalty shootout — then endured it for an amazing 43 attempts before a winner was decided.

Sunday's match, part of the Queensland Federation Ansett Cup, saw The Gap triumph over Rocklea 22-21 on penalties after the teams were level at 3-3 after extra time.

"It was remarkable that in all the kicks, not one shot was saved nor missed and that every penalty except the last was converted," said Queensland Soccer Federation spokesman Jim Gilbert.

As in every penalty shootout, there was a hero and a villain in this marathon match, which lasted three hours, one minute.

The Gap's Scott Cunningham scored twice from the spot despite being unable to run because of a torn hamstring.

Every player from each team scored from the first 11 kicks, including Cunningham, with a strapped leg and ice attached, had to take his kick from a stationary position and was then called back a second time as the teams went through a second round of another 17 kicks.

The match was finally decided when Rocklea captain Tom Novack kicked his penalty straight to the goalkeeper.